



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report

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LD0812132288 [Editorial Report]

'Arafat on Acceptance of Israel

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat signed a document in Stockholm stating that the PNC has "accepted the existence of Israel as a state in the region" and affirming the principle of "a two-state solution of Israel and Palestine."

The document, which was published by the JORDAN TIMES, was also signed by the five U.S. Jewish personalities who participated in the talks with the PLO leader.

They applauded the Palestinian independence declaration and contended that there is "no further impediment" to a direct dialogue between the U.S. Government and the PLO.

On the terrorism issue, the joint statement reaffirmed the PNC's rejection and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, including "state terrorism."

In remarks at a press conference cited by KUNA, 'Arafat confirmed that the PNC has accepted two states: "a Palestinian state and a Jewish state, Israel."

He also noted that he has asked Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson to convey the Stockholm joint statement to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Andersson described the joint statement as a "break-through" in the peace process, though he noted that it does not amount to formal recognition of the State of Israel.

However, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir dismissed 'Arafat's statements in an interview with Jerusalem television, contending that the PLO leaders may declare "anything," but their intention, ambition, and philosophy remain unchanged: to "annihilate" the State of Israel.

He said the first stage of their "annihilation plan" is to obtain Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 borders and establish a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza through "temporary recognition" of Israel in its "reduced" boundaries.

On the PLO's renunciation of terrorism, Shamir claimed that acts of terrorism "have not stopped for even 1 minute."

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also accused the PLO of continuing violent and terrorist activities in Israel, despite its declarations, and he said the PLO can only be treated seriously if it "unequivocally" declares an end to terrorism and violence, accepts UN Resolution 242, and recognizes Israel, Jerusalem television reported.

Noting that he was "furious" with 'Arafat for influencing the Israeli election results through stones and firebombs, Peres said that instead of merely condemning terrorism, the PLO leader should stop it.

As for 'Arafat's U.S. interlocutors, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said they represent "only themselves" and cannot be considered as representatives of Israel or any important Jewish organization in the United States, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service noted.

Israel

Prime Minister Shamir ordered the Likud negotiating team to speed up discussions with the ultraorthodox parties to form a narrow-based government, IDF radio reported.

According to Jerusalem radio, the Likud has reached agreement with Tehiya and the National Religious Party on settlement plans for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, allowing for the establishment of 10 new settlements each year the government is in power.

In the territories, an IDI⁷ soldier was wounded when shots were fired at his patrol in Hebron, IDF radio reported.

The radio also reported that a resident of Samaria died after "violently resisting" a security force operation.

According to Jerusalem radio, two Nabulus residents and seven Gazans were injured in riots.

In a further "call" broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising specified a program of further action in the territories through 24 December.

Regarding relations with the USSR, Jerusalem radio reported that CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev told the Israeli UN envoy that the Soviet Union has a lot of "friendship and goodwill" toward the people of Israel.

Lebanon

The International Committee of the Red Cross recalled all of its Swiss officials based in Muslim-controlled southern Lebanon, AFP reported.

Meanwhile, PLO leader 'Arafat called for maximum effort to ensure the release of the Swiss Red Cross official recently kidnapped and allocated a "huge sum" of money for this purpose, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

In other developments, the clandestine Voice of the People, citing JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, reported that Israel has established a commando unit to be deployed behind Syrian military lines in the Al-Biqa' Valley.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi called on all Arab states to sever relations with the United States in retaliation for the U.S. lifting of the ban on supplying cluster bombs to Israel, JANA reported.

He said the move is a further step toward "the annihilation of the Arab race."

Regarding relations with Chad, Ndjamenia radio announced that Chad, "in the spirit of peace," has decided to release the two Libyan pilots recently captured.

Egypt

Sixty "extremists" were arrested in Cairo for denying citizens the right "to exercise their traditions and social activities," MENA reported.

Iran

The Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani escaped an assassination attempt 5 December when a rocket was fired at his home, killing two of his companions.

Afghanistan

Soviet leader Gorbachev proposed a complete cease-fire in Afghanistan by 1 January under the supervision of a UN peacekeeping force and a halt to all arms supplies to both sides, TASS reported.

Resistance leaders rejected the proposal, saying the Soviets must withdraw their troops without preconditions and leave the Afghan people to decide their future destiny, AFP reported.

The Pakistani UN envoy, cited by Islamabad radio, called the proposal "unrealistic" because a cease-fire cannot be implemented and a broad-based coalition government must be formed before a UN peacekeeping force can be invited in.

TASS cited the Afghan UN envoy as saying Afghanistan fully supports the proposals.

In other developments, XINHUA reported that Soviet officials recently arrested the governor of Nangarhar Province, who they believed was ready to surrender Jalalabad to the rebels in exchange for protection.

AFP reported previously that Afghan Government troops foiled an attempt by mutinous soldiers to take over Jalalabad.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on 'Arafat's Stockholm News Conference

Stockholm Radio Report

LD0712165088 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish
1545 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpt] [Announcer] We shall begin with the news conference by Yasir 'Arafat which ended half an hour ago. We shall hear a report on the press conference from the Riskdag building:

[Reporter Bo Karlstroem] The press conference by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat here at the Riksdag building dealt, as expected, with two main questions: Is the PLO ready to recognize the State of Israel, and has the PLO renounced terrorism?

The Swedish foreign minister and the American Jewish group, which 'Arafat met here, described the text of a paper which was distributed as historic and something which can influence the peace process in the Middle East.

In this paper it is stated that the Palestinian parliament-in-exile in Algiers, when the Palestinian state was proclaimed on 15 November, also accepted Israel's existence. This should be the big news now.

But when 'Arafat himself was asked by this program whether there was any difference in the content of the paper now presented and the declaration made in Algiers, 'Arafat replied as follows:

[Begin recording in Arabic fading into Swedish translation] This is a correct summary of what was said in Algiers, that is, the same thing but in clearer terms. [end recording]

'Arafat himself thus took a little [word indistinct] what the Swedish foreign minister described as being the nearest to a world news item. 'Arafat referred to, just as in the Algiers declaration, the UN resolutions which speak of two states, one Arabic and one Jewish, in Palestine and of the right of all countries to exist in the area, thus also the right of Israel.

The difference is that in the paper written here in Stockholm Israel is mentioned by name. But 'Arafat does not want to go so far as to use the words: The PLO recognizes the State of Israel. That is quite another thing. The PLO accepts the existence of Israel.

With regard to the second important question, the renunciation of terrorism, the paper says the PLO condemns and dissociates itself from terrorism. That was also done already in Algiers, but at that time there was also the meaning included that the PLO reserved the

right to oppose occupation. Has this question now been dropped here, I asked 'Arafat, and I received the counter-question: "Are you Swedish, sir?"

[Reporter] Yes, I am.

['Arafat in Arabic fading to English translation] If you go back to the telephone book here in Stockholm, page 1,407, you would find there that resisting occupation is not your right, it's a duty. [end recording]

[Bo Karlstroem] 'Arafat thus urged me to read in the Stockholm telephone directory the passage: If war breaks out; on page 1,407 where everything is stated about what resistance we Swedes must put up if the country is occupied.

[Announcer] Bo Karlstroem reported from the news conference in the Riskdag building. And more about 'Arafat's day in Stockholm will be broadcast in the second broadcast of this program. [passage omitted]

Recognition Said 'Conditional'

JN0712173088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1705 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The first result of the meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation representing the Jewish community in the United States is the issuance of a joint statement by the two sides.

Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson viewed it as being a recognition by the PLO of Israel. It seems that the expression which caused the Swedish official to say this is the following expression contained in the joint statement. As reported by REUTER which carried the text, this expression says: The PNC has established the independent Palestinian state and has agreed to the existence of the Israeli state in the region.

This means that the Palestinian recognition of the Israeli state is conditional on the Israeli recognition of the Palestinian state.

Yasir 'Arafat explained this at a news conference in Stockholm following the broadcast of the joint statement with the delegation of the U.S. Jewish community. 'Arafat said: The PNC has accepted two states; a Palestinian state, and an Israeli state. He added: Is this clear?

'Uprising' To Continue

NC0712175488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1720 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today announced that the PLO accepts the existence of the State of Israel. In a news conference in Stockholm, 'Arafat pointed out that the PNC recognized Israel last month.

He added that the PNC accepts the presence of two states: a Palestinian state and a Jewish state, which is Israel. 'Arafat asked, is that not clear enough?

But 'Arafat emphasized that the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza will continue until a Palestinian state has been established.

Further on 'Arafat Comments

LD0712174688 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish
1700 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpts] We will continue with the news, for PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat concluded his visit to Stockholm today with talks with Foreign Minister Sten Andersson and five U.S. Jews, among other people. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Sten Andersson spoke during the first part of the press conference, together with members of the Jewish group, about the desire for peace and the possibilities for achieving it, and about how important the peace process is, while 'Arafat dealt at length with the right to fight and to use force, with the acts of terrorism directed against Palestinians, and with the unrest in the occupied territories. He then was asked whether he really was interested in peace.

[Begin 'Arafat recording in English] Yes, we accept peace. We call for peace; we are fighting to have peace, but please not to be biased. Be fair. [Words indistinct] that our children have the right to live as your children are living freely in their free land. [end recording]

That is what was said at Yasir 'Arafat's press conference today.

Andersson Asked To Give Message

NC0712190788 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The PLO today reaffirmed the decisions issued by the PNC in Algiers recently regarding the recognition of Israel's right to exist and the renunciation of terrorism. This came in a statement issued in Stockholm today in the wake of talks between the PLO Executive Committee chairman and a number of American Jews, who are now in Sweden.

REUTER reports that 'Arafat pointed out in a press conference he held in Stockholm today that the PNC had accepted the existence of two states, one Palestinian and the other Jewish, in accordance with the UN partition plan. The agency adds that the statement issued in Stockholm today explains the PNC decisions.

In his news conference, 'Arafat pointed out the statement issued in Stockholm today is an accurate reading and interpretation of the Algiers decisions. He added he completely approves of the statement, which does not represent something new to the PLO.

Yasir 'Arafat added he had asked the Swedish foreign minister to convey a message to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on the outcome of today's meetings in Stockholm, despite Shultz' position on granting 'Arafat a visa to go to New York.

'Arafat Holds Talks With U.S. Jewish Group

LD0712192688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1755 GMT
7 Dec 88

[Text] Stockholm, Dec 7 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Wednesday announced here that the Palestine Liberation Organization accepts the existence of the "State of Israel."

At the conclusion of a two-day talks with a group of American Jews, 'Arafat told a press conference that "the Palestine National Council had accepted two states, a Palestinian state and a Jewish state, Israel", he added "(?was) that enough?"

'Arafat's remarks came after he signed a joint statement with the Jewish group that was described as an elaboration of the PNC's resolution of Algiers last November 15.

The Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, who organized the meeting between 'Arafat and the U.S. Jewish group, described the communique as "a breakthrough of the peace process in the Middle East."

'Arafat stressed that the ongoing Palestinian uprising since last December, will continue until the Palestinian state is announced in the occupied Arab territories.

The joint statement noted that the PNC "denounces and deplores terrorism of all its forms including the state sponsored terrorism."

The PNC declared the establishment of the independent Palestinian state and accepted the existence of Israel in the area, the joint statement added.

The Swedish foreign minister elaborated that the PNC "recognizes Israel's right to exist but does not recognize the Israeli state."

'Arafat, in the press conference said that he had requested from Andersson to convey the Stockholm's joint statement to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz "in spite of Shultz's stance from me [as received] that was represented by depriving me an entry visa to New York."

'Arafat intended to address the General Assembly to explain the PNC's resolutions in New York, but he was denied a visa, which led to voting in favour of removing the discussion of the Palestinian question to Geneva.

'Arafat is due to address the Geneva gathering next week.

In occupied Jerusalem, radio Israel in an urgent report quoted contents of the joint statement that was signed by 'Arafat with the Jewish American group from an international news agency.

'Arafat held a total of six-hour talks with the American Jews led by Rita Hauser, chairwoman of the International Center for Peace in the Middle East and members Menachem Rosensaft, Dora Kass and Stanley Scheinbaum.

The PLO chief also met with Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson for two hours yesterday, however topics discussed during the meeting were not revealed.

The Swedish foreign minister, in the meantime, said that the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and a progress was achieved.

Meanwhile, Hauser welcomed the PLO's decision to accept Israel's right to exist, noting that the joint statement is "a frank recognition of Israel and that the PLO accepted Israel's existence as a state."

She called on the American Administration to initiate an open dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization which will be widely welcomed by the American Jewish congregation.

'Text' of Statement

JN0812075088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
8-9 Dec 88 p 1

[Excerpts] Stockholm (Agencies)—Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said Wednesday he gave a delegation of American Jews clarifications of PLO policy to accept Israel's existence and condemn all forms of terrorism.

He told a news conference that a two page statement drafted with the Jewish group was "an accurate reading and interpretation" of the resolutions adopted last month by the Palestine National Council, and "for us it is nothing new." [passage omitted]

Following is a text of the joint statement issued in Stockholm Wednesday:

The Palestine National Council met in Algiers from Nov. 12 to 15, 1988, and announced the declaration of independence which proclaimed the State of Palestine and issued a political statement.

The following explanation was given by the representatives of the PLO of certain important points in the Palestinian declaration of independence and the political statement adopted by the PNC in Algiers.

Affirming the principle incorporated in those U.N. resolutions which call for a two-state solution of Israel and Palestine.

The PNC:

1. Agreed to enter into peace negotiations at an international conference under the auspices of the U.N. with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with the other parties to the conflict such an international conference is to be held on the basis of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, without external interference, as provided in the U.N. Charter, including the right to an independent state, which conference should resolve the Palestinian problem in all its aspects;

2. Established the independent state of Palestine and accepted the existence of Israel as a state in the region.

3. Declared its rejection and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism;

4. Called for a solution to the Palestinian refugee problem in accordance with international law and practices and relevant U.N. resolutions (including right of return or compensation).

The American personalities strongly supported and applauded the Palestinian declaration of independence and the political statement adopted in Algiers and felt there was no further impediment to a direct dialogue between the United States government and the PLO.

PLO Receives \$14.25 Million From Saudi Arabia
LD0612210488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1810 GMT
6 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 6 Dec (SPA)—Rafiq al-Natshah, member of the Fatah Central Committee and ambassador of the Palestinian state to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has stated that the PLO has received the sum of \$14.25 million today Tuesday, 6 December, 1988 being the installment to which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia pledged at the Baghdad summit to pay to the PLO. [passage omitted]

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Visits Sweden

For reportage on the visit to Sweden by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, including his meeting with Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, see the Swedish section of the 7 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Algeria

Council of Ministers Discusses Government Program
LD0612215088 Algiers Television Service
in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met today at the Presidential Headquarters under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid.

Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah presented a review of the government program in the form that has been approved by the National People's Assembly.

The prime minister, with regard to implementing this program, spoke about the priorities which have been prepared to guarantee the economy, along with its effects in safeguarding and creating jobs opportunities, and in production and productivity, in expectation of applying the independence of institutions in 1989. [passage omitted]

A draft bill of the finance law and the state budget.

The annual plan for 1989 seeks to realize three basic aims: to stimulate the economy in accordance with suitable terms, to underwrite the basic social needs of the citizens, and to implement economic reforms. [passage omitted]

As regards the protection of the purchasing power, the actions defined in the 1989 annual plan fall within the context of the government's plan of action and revolve on the permanent availability, at reasonable prices, of basic products in accordance with the defined list; raising low incomes which are financed by noninflationary means, thanks to the work of redistribution and solidarity; combatting phenomena causing inflation, to preserve the quality of materials and services for consumption; a reorganization of the distribution networks toward greater competition among the distributors, and bringing the producers closer to their markets. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Bush Administration's Mideast Options Examined
JN0712190488 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
6 Dec 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Peace and the New U.S. Administration"]

[Text] Arab endeavors and contacts have intensified to serve the cause of peace in the Middle East, considering it an Arab issue. These endeavors focus on removing obstacles obstructing the peace march and giving positive replies to the inquiries raised by friends and the questions posed by enemies, especially questions pertaining to the PLO's intentions. The replies, to the best of our knowledge, confirm the Arabs' credibility regarding their eagerness to bring about a just and comprehensive peace. This has resulted in persistent and continuous moves in Cairo and other Arab capitals. The final outcome has provided added significance to the world's conviction on the need to resolve the issue in the interest of all parties. This outcome has also assigned further importance to the issue in the eyes of the world public in the United States, Europe, and Israel.

Hence, it has not been strange, despite the current U.S. Administration's odd position and despite the backward move it has taken toward the recent PNC resolutions, to see advisers to U.S. President-elect George Bush voice a completely different position; as they have advised the president-elect to wash his hands of the U.S. impasse which has resulted in a unanimous world condemnation of the U.S. Administration by the world body. They have also advised him to act immediately after he assumes the executive powers of the Presidency on 20 January to advance the Middle East peace process and encourage the convening of an international Mideast peace conference to repair the damage which has plagued Arab-U.S. relations as a result of Shultz' obstinacy and his refusal to grant an entry visa to 'Arafat.

As a matter of fact, President Bush, who reached the White House with an overwhelming majority without depending on the Jewish vote, which went to his opponent Dukakis, can benefit from his long familiarity with the Middle East file to achieve an goal that might be no less important than that scored by Reagan when he signed the treaty on reducing intermediate-range nuclear missiles. The only thing that is required is careful examination and scrutiny, with eyes fastened on the pursuit of justice, of the Algiers PNC resolutions. This examination and scrutiny must recognize the PLO's clear position on peace and result in the adoption of a new U.S. position that considers the history of the United States' struggle to attain freedom and safeguard human rights. The simplest manifestation of adopting such a position would certainly be to convince Israel to relinquish its occupation of Arab territories and enter into negotiations under an international umbrella to help realize the

aspirations of the region's peoples regarding the attainment of peace and stability. Will the Bush Administration work for peace? Or will it remain isolated with Israel on the other side?

'Abd al-Majid Hails Europe's View on Palestinians
NC0712170888 Cairo MENA in English
1635 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 7 (MENA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid praised the European understanding and supporting stance vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause, describing it as deserving every encouragement.

In an interview with MENA, 'Abd al-Majid said the United States supports the holding of an international conference and expressed hope for the promoting of efforts exerted to hold an international conference on peace in the Mideast. 'Abd al-Majid said the speech PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is to deliver before the U.N. General Assembly in its European Headquarters in Geneva, will be a stress for the resolutions of the Palestine National Council which he described as "historical." He added that the decision to move the General Assembly's debate to Geneva greatly served the Palestinians' cause.

The voting of 154 countries in favour of the move of the debate to Geneva reflects an international determination to support the Palestinian cause by listening to its legitimate representative Yasir 'Arafat 'Abd al-Majid said. On the other hand, the deputy premier and foreign minister welcomed the resolution by the Arab Economic Unity Council today, restoring Egypt's membership to the council. He said this new step will help boost inter-Arab cooperation and solidarity.

Speaks on Uprising Anniversary
NC0812153988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, made a statement today on the occasion marking the first anniversary of the Palestinian uprising. He said the uprising has changed the balance of power and proved that the Palestinian people reject occupation and demand the restoration of their rights and dignity. The uprising emphasizes the need to find a political settlement for the Palestinian issue, he said, adding that the current situation, which has persisted for over 21 years, since 1967, cannot continue.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the political results of the uprising have already started to emerge, particularly after the recent significant resolutions adopted by the PNC. He added that the UN General Assembly will

listen to the speech of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on Tuesday [13 December], as well as to other speeches from all over the world. This, he noted, emphasizes and confirms the resolutions which were adopted in Algiers.

'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt, as well as many other countries, is pursuing peace and a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Commenting on remarks made by Yasir 'Arafat in Stockholm yesterday, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said they were positive and constructive.

Swedish Rejection of Israeli Protests Noted

NC0812084688 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0630 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper has said that Israel is playing for time, but will not be able to stop the march which is proceeding firmly and strongly to liberate the occupied land.

The paper carries a commentary today saying that the Israeli leaders are overwhelmed with anxiety and tension as the Palestinian issue gains prominence on the international arena, and as a world consensus develops on the need to hold an international conference for Middle East peace and to restore the Palestinians' usurped rights.

Israel has been nervous, the paper says, ever since the PNC declared the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Israel has tried to influence the Swedish Government to prevent its hosting PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Stockholm. It has also registered its objection to talks between 'Arafat and the Swedish prime minister and foreign minister.

The Israeli rulers' sick imagination made them believe that the Swedish authorities would yield to their warnings and to the blackmail which Israel is still exerting with other countries, AL-AKHBAR says. Sweden did not heed the Israeli protests and Swedish media voiced dismay over this improper intervention in the country's internal affairs.

Ghali Returns From Ethiopia, Mexico, Cuba

NC0812072688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo early this morning from a 2-week tour of Ethiopia, Mexico, and Cuba. Dr Ghali said that he delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. Dr Ghali also took part in the work of the OAU ministerial committee. Dr Ghali stated that he had held talks with a number of African foreign ministers.

Dr Ghali said that he represented President Mubarak at the festivities marking the election of the new Mexican president. Dr Ghali held talks with Mexican officials concerning bilateral ties and ways of bolstering them.

Dr Ghali said that he then visited Cuba, where he held talks with the Cuban foreign minister and a number of senior Cuban officials. The talks centered on issues of common concern as well as bilateral relations. Ghali said that he will brief President Mubarak in full on the outcome of his tour.

Ghali Meeting With Sudan Rebels Claimed

PM0812112488 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
7-13 Dec 88 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Direct Contacts Between Egypt and Garang's Movement"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that during his recent visit to Ethiopia Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, held a meeting with a delegation of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] command and briefed its members on the Egyptian position on current negotiations with the Sudanese Government.

Some sources said that Ghali met with the army's leader, John Garang, who agreed to Egypt's playing an effective role in mediation with the Khartoum government.

Egyptian media, including radio and television, have received instructions not to refer to the SPLA as rebels and to cease referring to Garang as a rebel leader.

Reactivation of Economic Council Membership Noted

NC0812072088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0435 GMT 8 Dec 88

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that the Arab Economic Unity Council has decided to reactivate Egypt's membership in the council, rescinding an earlier decision to suspend its membership. The council called on Egypt to resume the exercise of its rights and obligations through the council's activities.

AL-AHRAM newspaper cites Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, as welcoming the decision and calling it a further step in the strengthening of Arab cooperation and solidarity.

Security Forces Arrest 60 'Extremists' in Cairo

NC0712193288 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1845 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—The security authorities today mounted a large-scale campaign in the 'Ayn Shams area to enable the security forces to tighten their control

there and put an end to the citizens' numerous complaints against certain extremist elements who sought to subject the citizens to coercion by denying them the right to exercise their traditions and social activities such as celebrations.

During the campaign, which was led by the assistants to the interior minister for state, public, and Cairo security, the security forces managed to arrest 60 of the extremist elements, who have been referred to the public prosecutor for immediate interrogation.

It should be recalled that the security departments have recently received a large number of complaints from the inhabitants of the 'Ayn Shams area against the unacceptable interference of these extremist elements in their life and these elements' domination of the area.

Libya

JANA Editor on U.S. Cluster Bomb Decision
LD0712214488 Tripoli JANA in English
1731 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 7, JAMAHIRI-YAH NEWS AGENCY—This week, the U.S. Administration announced the continuation of providing the Zionist enemy with cluster bombs—which are internationally banned.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on that saying: "This step comes within the framework of the agreement the Zionists and U.S. imperialism to wipe out the Arab race and to turn Arabs into red Indians so that the alien Zionists take their place in a hostile drive aimed at making the Arab nation feel the continued hostility of the U.S. Administration against the Arabs and its going too far in backing the Zionist terrorists to dig in their presence in the heart of the Arab nation on the account of the Arab existence".

The editor added: "The U.S. Administration's decision to continue providing the Zionists with such lethal bombs at a time the sons of our Palestine Arab people are facing the U.S.-backed Zionist war machine which the whole world saw the scale of horror and savagery of the Zionist criminal acts against the sons of the Palestine Arab generation of anger—their burning, their burial alive, the breaking of their limbs and the use of U.S. poisonous gas bombs against them—which confirm the existence of an alliance between Judaism and crusade directed against the Arab nation to wipe out the Arab race."

The editor then wondered: "Why does America declare the continuation of providing the Zionists with such lethal weapons? Then, against whom such internationally-banned weapons will be used?"

Then he said: "The answer to such questions was embodied by the Zionist terrorist during their savage invasion of Lebanon in 1982 using cluster and vacuum bombs—the latest that the evil U.S. mentality had come out with against the sons of the Lebanese Arab people".

He added: "At the time the U.S. Administration announces and boasts about its continued provision of such human annihilation weapons to the Zionist terrorists, it shamelessly announces to the world its insistence on blocking the sale of technical equipment and materials used in peaceful and development fields to the Arab countries and Third World states to the extent of preventing Arabs' sons from pursuing their scientific achievements at the American universities."

The editor confirmed that the new hostile U.S. behaviour, which comes immediately after the disruption of the debate on Palestine at the U.N. General Assembly, by way of preventing Arabs from arriving at the U.N. forum to express and explain their cause. [sentence as received]

It is a flagrant provocative U.S. challenge for the Arab nation and another attempt to show disregard by the U.S. Administration towards the Arabs and to humiliate them and pour scorn towards their just causes "which makes us reaffirm the need, once more, for taking a decisive Arab stance to put an end to U.S. haughtiness.

"That does not come about except by way of achieving the pan-Arab unity."

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Arabs To Sever U.S. Ties
LD0712215588 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1915 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Dec (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has sent the following message to Arab presidents and kings regarding the U.S. Administration's decision to lift the ban on the supply of prohibited cluster bombs to the Zionist enemy:

The United States has lifted the ban on the supply of prohibited cluster bombs to the Zionist enemy, thus adding another decision to its previous ones and taking a further step toward the annihilation of the Arab race and the termination of its existence.

Hence, it becomes more certain every day that our conflict with the enemy is a conflict of existence and not a conflict over borders. Concessions, negotiations, or recognition cannot alter this.

By making this decision, the United States has dealt another blow to the Arabs who innocently gambled on their relations and friendship. This decision also threatens the future of our existence and humiliates us before the world.

The United States has become the enemy and direct adversary of the Arabs, and it uses our oil, money, and capabilities to eliminate us.

Future generations will never forgive us for continuing on this path which will lead to the elimination of our existence from the face of the earth.

To confront U.S. scorn and its repeated humiliations, the Arabs have no option but to sever their relations with this country, as it is illogical for the Arabs to continue relations with it while they know that the continuation of such relations threatens their existence.

If we Arabs do not sever our relations with the United States, we will be digging our own graves and the graves of future generations with our own hands. This also means we remain indifferent to the contempt the entire world harbors for us.

Jabir Briefs Al-Qadhdhafi on Trip to Sudan
LD0712234488 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, who presented a report on his visit to fraternal Sudan. This visit ended with a political communique that stressed the determination of the Great Jamahiriyah and beloved Sudan to continue in order to achieve Arab unity, which is a means of liberation and mobilization of the political and economic capabilities of the Arab motherland. This, in turn, will help the Arab motherland to be self-sufficient and enable it to confront all imperialist conspiratorial schemes.

This visit also resulted in the signing of a document defining the commitment to the Charter of Unity between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan. The document was signed by Col Abu Yunis Jabir and Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, chairman of the Ummah Party; Husayn 'Abdallah al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic National Front, and [name indistinct] on behalf of the political parties of southern Sudan, as well as [words indistinct]

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Somali Minister
EA0712224988 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1700 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Comrade Dr Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed, SDR minister of information, national guidance, and tourism, has held talks with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi at the Presidency in Tripoli, Libya.

The minister delivered greetings from Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, the SDR president, to the Libya leader. During their cordial conversation, the Libyan leader asked the SDR minister to deliver his greetings to Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, the SDR president.

The reports add that Comrade Dr Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed also held talks with Dr Ahmad Abu Da'ud [as heard], Libya's secretary for information and culture, and later signed an agreement which aims at promoting cooperation and good relations between Somalia and Libya.

Pact Signed With Somalia

LD0712175388 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpt] An agreement on cooperation in the field of information was signed this morning in Tripoli between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Somali Democratic Republic.

The agreement was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture and Brother Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed, the minister of information and tourism in the Somali Democratic Republic.

The agreement provides for cooperation between the radio and television services of the Great Jamahiriyah and Somalia through exchanges of cultural, social, and religious programs and of radio and television correspondences between the two countries.

The agreement also provides for cooperation between JANA and SONNA through the exchange of news, a commitment to the transmission of news of the two countries via the two agencies, and the exchange of visits by journalistic and informational delegations.

The agreement emphasizes the exchange of books and the collection of newspapers, magazines, and information [word indistinct] between the two fraternal countries. It also provides for the exchange of theatrical and folkloric groups and the holding of festivals in the two fraternal countries. Agreement was also reached on the exchange of [word indistinct] films, the holding of special weeks for them, and the organization of meetings between specialists and technicians in the two fraternal countries.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture expressed his hope that this agreement will contribute to the consolidation and development of brotherly ties among the one Arab people in the two fraternal countries. In this respect, he stressed the need for integration to achieve unity and prosperity for the Arab homeland from the ocean to the Gulf.

After he signed the information agreement, the brother minister of information and tourism in fraternal Somalia expressed his hope that this agreement will be a good omen for joint cooperation in the field of information benefiting of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Somalia. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Political Detainees Said Alive, in Good Health

*AB0612180088 Dakar PANA in French
1325 GMT 6 Dec 88*

[Text] Nouakchott, 6 Dec (APS-SEN/PANA)—The Mauritanian journalist Ibrahima Sarr and his co-detainees—Amadou Mochtar Sow, an engineer, and the former commissioner of police, Mamadou Ly—are alive and in good health, according to a mission comprised of the chairman of the Mauritanian League of Human Rights and journalists of the local and the international press. It will be recalled that Amnesty International last week announced the death of three detainees who were imprisoned along with other Mauritanian opponents in various prisons in 'Ayoun El 'Atrous (800 km) and Oualata (1,200 km) east of Nouakchott. In all, 63 members of the so-called Liberation Forces of Mauritanian Africans (FLAM) are in these two prisons serving various terms, including life imprisonment.

In 'Ayoun El 'Atrous prison, there are currently 31 civilian detainees who were arrested in September 1986 following the publication of a manifesto of the oppressed Negro-Africans describing the Mauritanian political system as racist and oppressive. On the other hand, 32 soldiers were imprisoned for having fomented an ethnic coup d'etat, which, according to Nouakchott authorities, would have resulted in the physical elimination of some of the country's leaders.

Abdelhamid Statement

*AB0612205588 Paris AFP in French 1604 GMT
6 Dec 88*

[Text] Nouakchott, 6 Dec (AFP)—The conditions of detention of black Africans of Mauritania have clearly improved. This was stated in Nouakchott today by the president of the Mauritanian League of Human Rights, Mr Ghali Ould Abdelhamid, on his return from the two prisons where they are being imprisoned. Addressing a news conference held in the presence of journalists who had accompanied him during the visit to Oualata (1,200 km east of Nouakchott) and 'Ayoun El 'Atrous (800 km east of the capital), the president of the league denied that three detainees had died, as announced last week by the humanitarian organization Amnesty International. He said the journalist, Ibrahima Sarr, the engineer, Amadou Mochtar Sow, and former minister Mamadou Bocar Ly "are actually alive and in good health." This visit was the first to be authorized by the Mauritanian Government since the arrest in September 1986 of the authors of the "Manifesto of the Oppressed Black Mauritanian" and the sentencing in October 1987 of black

soldiers who attempted to overthrow the present government. The visit made it possible to observe that the detainees "are in good health and are now well treated," Mr Abdelhamid stated, citing the journalists who accompanied him as witnesses.

The delegation was able to talk with the detainees in the presence of government representatives, he added. Thirty-one out of these detainees—the civilians—are now being detained at 'Ayoun El 'Atrous, while 32 soldiers have remained at Oualata, Mr Abdelhamid explained. They had all been detained at Oualata until October when four of their companions died in this small colonial fort, situated in this desert region which has a very hostile climate. According to Dr Legiste, while testifying to the president of the Mauritanian League, the writer Tene Youssef Gueye, Quartermaster Ba Alassane Oumar, Lieutenant Ba Abdel Ghoudouss (repatriated from Algeria during the trial of the 22 October 1987 attempted coup plotters), and former minister Djigo Tafsirou died of "sickness."

According to Mr Abdelhamid, the prisoners stated that they had lived under "difficult" conditions of detention from December 1987 to May 1988. According to the detainees, "things have changed" since then: A doctor has been sent to the 'Ayoun El 'Atrous prison, while a registered state nurse has been sent to the Oualata prison which is also visited by a doctor from the Nema hospital, not far from Oualata. Nutrition has been improved and delegates of the detainees are consulted about their food, Mr Abdelhamid asserted. Also, the detainees now have the possibility to practice some sports: soccer, basketball, and volleyball. Now they are only in groups of three in a cell. They can also converse among themselves, Mr Abdelhamid added, quoting the detainees.

The main demand of the prisoners now concerns visits by their relatives, who have not yet been allowed to see them. According to Mr Abdelhamid, assurances by the government make him think that this demand will be met.

Action will be taken against officials found to be responsible for deplorable prison conditions noticed during certain periods, and those concerned will be arraigned before a disciplinary commission, official Mauritanian sources explained. The same sources disclosed that the poor conditions noticed were the result of individuals' acts and not government instructions.

This news conference was held on the anniversary of the execution on 6 December 1987 of three Mauritanian officers, Seydi Ba, Amadou Sarr, and Saidou Sy, who were sentenced to death following the trial of the 22 October 1987 coup plotters by a special tribunal.

Morocco

Interview With King Hassan on Inter-Arab Ties
LD0712223888 Paris Domestic Service in French
01815 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Interview with King Hassan II by correspondent Ralph Pinto at Ifrane Palace in Morocco—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Pinto] If one were to make a philosophical appraisal of France's Maghreb policies, could one not say that irrespective of who is president, French policy cannot change?

[Hassan] You know, as Pascal said: Style is man, and with regard to style, man appears to us more congenial, or rather as congenial as his style. It is not up to me to judge those who have held office, and least of all those who will hold office. Between us, let us speak of the present. I simply say that the style of President Francois Mitterrand vis-a-vis Africa, and North Africa in particular, and toward Morocco, at least as far as we are concerned, is a style that is very sympathetic to us, which in fact implies an exchange of confidences and impressions.

[Pinto] Sir, let us speak, if you like, of what the French now know as the intifada, an Arabic word meaning insurrection, the revolution of the stones. Tomorrow marks the first anniversary. We will enter the second year of the intifada in the West Bank and Gaza, land occupied by the Israelis. During the PNC meeting in Algiers, 'Arafat seemingly made a big step forward. Could he do more? Could he do better?

[Hassan] I think that the step made by the PLO through its chairman, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, is enough in itself, and it should persuade those who are still in doubt. It is true that one cannot ask for more in a declaration of principles. Could he do more? Could he do less? I think that it will be in the course of earnest debates that the West, particularly the United States, will be able to judge once and for all either the good or ill will of the PLO. At this stage, [word indistinct] of events, however, I think that the speech made by the PLO chairman in Algiers is enlightening, and that from this point of view it should be taken very seriously.

We are eagerly awaiting what he will say at the United Nations. At any rate, he will not be able to say less. Therefore, if he is to say something, he will either repeat what he said in Algiers, which was very important, or he will add something else, which will probably enable him to be taken more seriously. At any rate, he will not be less prominent in Geneva than in Algiers. In my view, this is paramount. [passage omitted]

[Pinto] What is your view of the U.S. refusal to issue a visa to 'Arafat?

[Hassan] Inexplicable because first, on the legal plane, one should look into causes. Chairman 'Arafat was not going to go to visit the United States, to have a stroll on the streets of New York.

[Pinto] Like Gorbachev....

[Hassan] Yes. As far as causes are concerned, he was going to go to the United Nations. Well, it so happens that the United Nations has a treaty with the United States. Before refusing the visa, the United States should have looked into the reason for Mr 'Arafat's visit. The reason was not only legal, but it also was promising. This is what I call the legal and political gaffe of those who said that a visa should not be given to Yasir 'Arafat.

[Pinto] The Arab world has, it would seem, fully supported Yasir 'Arafat, with the very noticeable exception of two countries that did not want to declare their opinions. Do you think, sir, that the Arab world is mature enough as to be unanimous? Is disunity still the malaise of the Arab world?

[Hassan] Yes, exactly. I am going to use a word, an adjective that you have just pronounced: unanimous. The Arab world now has become mature enough not to seek unanimity any more. The case is honorable; the case, as an obstetrician would say, presents itself well. The birth should come in the most natural manner. Now it is time for us not to seek unanimity anymore. I believe that Arab maturity has attained this stage.

[Pinto] This means that one can act without those who do not want to come to the table?

[Hassan] I think so.

[Pinto] One can act, for instance—we must not assail anyone, but after all one must consider that one can act—in the Middle East without a country that is said to be unavoidable, a country called Syria?

[Hassan] Syria is not unavoidable, all the more so since—every country has its faults, and so does Syria, like the other countries—Syria has a past, a past of Arabism, both in the present and in past centuries. This fact makes it a duty for this country to maneuver only for a few days or a few months, but Syria is not free from its Arab past. One must not forget that it was the country of the Omayyads, and furthermore, for centuries and centuries, it has remained the cradle of the Arabic language, of the Arab civilization, Arab refinement. It will make all the maneuvers it wants, but it will not be able to escape itself.

[Pinto] Escape its Arab destiny?

[Hassan] And escape the role it must play because if it does not play it then it would not be Syria anymore. Its name then would have to be changed. Sometimes it has a nasty character; it loses its temper fairly quickly, but

very often it does so out of maneuvering. However, Syria is aware of its weight in the Arab world, and I do not think it will take it upon itself to fail to.... [sentence incomplete as heard] One would not understand this.

[Pinto] Allow me to talk about the Maghreb, and first about Algeria. Algeria lived through difficult days in October. There were many hundreds of victims—200 as admitted by the Algerian Government. Algeria has practically and officially admitted the bankruptcy of the system. President Chadli made a speech that moved many Algerians, so it seemed. What is your diagnosis of the Algerian crisis?

[Hassan] It is difficult for me, not because of neighborliness or my rank or responsibility. I have rarely been to Algeria. I do not know Algeria well. It is difficult to diagnose. All I can do is observe, and as is the case in medical practice, the problem has to be diagnosed first, then the ideological treatment is applied to the illness. I think the ideological treatment belongs only to the Algerians. They must embark on an introspective process and make their self-criticism. It is up to them to draw their own conclusions. [passage omitted]

[Pinto] Well, if one is concerned with the unity of the Maghreb, must one wish for the ~~to~~ to get better in Algeria?

[Hassan] You know that what has happened in Algeria has happened in many other countries. Even your country lived through a similar upheaval, as is the case among the oldest democratic countries. The problem in this field is not having difficulties, but the failure to resolve them. As in the medical field, there is no shameful illness in the political field. The important thing is to find the cure. I trust all Algerian sons and daughters to find the cure and the solution.

[Pinto] I will ask you a brief question: Will there be a vote in Western Sahara in 1989?

[Hassan] I hope so, and not only in 1989, but in the first 3 to 6 months of 1989.

[Pinto] With the United Nations?

[Hassan] With the United Nations.

[Pinto] With or without the OAU?

[Hassan] The OAU is the business of the secretary general. We are not a member of the OAU. [passage omitted] If the United Nations thinks that it needs the help of the OAU, we will not oppose it.

[Pinto] So the important thing is that the process in Western Sahara gets moving fast?

[Hassan] Exactly.

[Pinto] I would like to come back, briefly, to the Great Maghreb, or Maghreb, or the unification of the Maghreb. Is this possible so long as Al-Qadhdhafi does not calm down because, very often, we find his attitudes difficult to understand? He is too much in love nor not enough in love. It is not very easy to understand that.

[Hassan] As far as I am concerned, we have had a few meetings on the Maghreb in Algiers. Each one of us gave his opinion as he saw fit, and I must say that President al-Qadhdhafi, when he put forward an idea which had to be taken into account, it was his own idea. However, when we said we do not agree with you on this or that analysis, he then shared the opinion of the others.

[Pinto] So, is it because some do not know how to speak to him that we sometimes notice differences?

[Hassan] Well, it depends. Sometimes, some do not know how to speak to him, and sometimes he does not want to listen to others. He pretends. He hears them, but does not listen to them. The important thing is to find a middle ground between the two.

[Pinto] And it can be done?

[Hassan] Yes, it can. It really can be done because he is a man who is very attached to Arabism, the Maghreb, the unionist idea. Sometimes, naturally, he gets carried away, but thank God, his motivation is there. [passage omitted]

[Pinto] We heard yesterday in Paris, Your Majesty, that Moroccan police and justice have given Mr. Maurice Serfaty his passport back. The son of this man who has been jailed is often the focus of conversations in France. When Morocco is mentioned, human rights and this man who, it would appear, is a symbol, are talked about. What is the situation like as far as human rights are concerned in Morocco? This is a very straightforward, serious, and grave question. [passage omitted]

[Hassan] To say that Mr Serfaty is a poor man is true, yes, because he never understood anything, particularly ideological problems. I could not care less about this, but when, unlike his Moroccan compatriots, Mr Serfaty teaches that the Sahara is not Moroccan, I cannot accept this. [passage omitted] Between Mr Serfaty and myself, there are no problems. When Mr Serfaty publicly says and writes that he has made a mistake, that he is ready to campaign, even physically, for the return of the Sahara to the homeland, repentance here, as a Muslim custom, is a reason for forgiveness. [passage omitted]

Protocols Concluded With Niger, Guinea
LD0512134688 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Text] Niamey, Dec 5 (MAP)—Moroccan minister delegate in charge of Administrative Affairs Abderrahim Benabdeljalil Sunday wound up a visit to Niger.

Benabdeljalil's visit was marked by the conclusion of an agreement protocol between Morocco and Niger on cooperation in matters of public administration. The protocol provides for cooperation in administrative reform, the training of Niger's cadres and cooperation between the two countries' schools of public administration.

Benabdeljalil, who is also chairman of the administrative board of the Tangiers-based African Center for Administrative Research and Training for Development (CAFRAD), had visited Guinea earlier last week where he concluded a similar agreement in Conakry.

He had also discussed with officials there the adherence procedures of Guinea to CAFRAD during its administrative board meeting slated for July 21-22, 1989 in Marrakesh, Morocco. CAFRAD's board meeting will be held on the fringes of the congress of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences in Marrakesh.

Tunisia

President Comments on Internal, Foreign Policy
PM0712150288 Tunis LE RENOUVEAU in French
22 Nov 88 pp 4-5

[Unattributed report: "Democracy, a Choice and a Necessity"]

[Text] In its second monthly edition in Arabic, LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE publishes the text of a long interview with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali emphasizing the democratic process which Tunisia has been experiencing since 7 November 1987, the internal economic situation, relations with other Maghreb countries, and Tunisia's foreign policy and its attitude to some current international issues.

In reply to a question on the development of the democratic experiment and its impact on Tunisia, President Ben Ali replied:

"For Tunisia, the democratic option is undoubtedly the best choice, the one which most closely corresponds to our contemporary history and to our people's characteristics. However, it is the most difficult choice. The country experienced a real reduction in tension following the change which we made on 7 November and which removed the symptoms of the split between the state and society. We have taken a number of initiatives in the legal and practical spheres. These are initiatives which are all directed at the same goal, namely reviving political life and spreading a spirit of optimism and hope in the country. Nobody in Tunisia is now imprisoned for his political views. In addition, there are now six recognized parties and trade union reconciliation has made considerable progress...moreover associations are more active and dynamic than they have ever been."

The head of state continued: "We are fully aware that these are still early days and that the consecration of the democratic option is a collective responsibility which requires a great deal of perseverance and the combined efforts of all.

"Moreover, to give the process the best chance of survival and to avoid any blunders in this transitional stage, we have involved all the political parties, professional and social organizations, associations, and, in general, the representatives of the main schools of thought, in drawing up a pact which contains a set of principles and values on which there is national consensus.

Our hope is that the early presidential and parliamentary elections which will be held in 1989, will provide an opportunity to consolidate the people's sovereignty and enrich the democratic experiment which is based on Tunisian experience and meets the Tunisians' aspirations."

In reply to a question on participation by the military in political life, President Ben Ali said in particular: "Tunisia is a civilian state and the system of government is the republican system which is based on constitutional institutions. The change has been made with strict respect for the constitution's provisions. Furthermore, we have placed the success of the democratic option among our main concerns."

And he added: "The Army's role in our country consists of defending the homeland. In this respect, we emphasized the political neutrality of the defense and security institutions during discussions on the National Pact. Although some government members were previously in the Army, this is not unusual, and the people concerned all returned to civilian and political life years ago."

President Ben Ali then discussed the problems which the Tunisian economy is experiencing and which stem from the aggravation of the world crisis in addition to climatic hazards. In this connection, he discussed the measures which have been taken at all levels to remedy this situation.

"At present," he said, "we are working on drafting a long-term economic strategy—a consistent and comprehensive strategy which is based on an objective analysis of our situation, which fixes consistent general and sector objectives, determines ways and means of achieving them, and defines the respective roles of the public and private sectors with a view to general, complete, and balanced development. At the same time, the aim is to reconcile economic profitability and the fair distribution of wealth, which are two fundamental and complementary preconditions for stability and social progress at the same time as an antidote to social unrest." Turning to international relations and Tunisia's real contribution to building a united Arab Maghreb and settling the Saharan problem, President Ben Ali gave an assurance that, in the spirit of the 7 November declaration and in combination with other Maghreb countries, Tunisia has striven to create the necessary platform for ensuring that our experience is in tune with the political will of the Maghreb leaders and peoples, in the knowledge that "we are convinced that building the Arab Maghreb is not just a response to emotional, historical, and cultural motives, but is also a vital and urgent necessity for the countries in the region... This is especially true because we are living at a time when economic and regional groupings are sometimes characterized by an increased trend toward protectionism."

The head of state added:

"We have already managed to overcome a number of obstacles and problems which are hampering our collective progress and, despite the fact that we still have far to go and still have many repercussions to overcome, we are determined to continue our forward progress to achieve the objective to which the peoples of the region aspire. In this connection, there are very encouraging signs of hope

which augur well for a settlement to the Saharan problem, in view of the attitude of the parties directly concerned and the intensive efforts made by the United Nations to solve the problem."

In reply to a question on Tunisia's contribution to the expansion of the circle of countries which recognize the Palestinian people's national rights, particularly their right to establish an independent state, President Ben Ali said:

"We regard the Palestinian cause as ours, because it is a question of right and justice and it is the Arabs' great cause. In our support for this cause, we try to encourage all those with whom we have relations to side with justice."

After reaffirming Tunisia's support for the Palestinian cause and the importance it attaches to defending this cause in all international bodies, President Ben Ali noted the positive development in European positions on this question.

He also said that the uprising, which has really exposed Israel's false position, has highlighted the real values of the valiant Palestinian people and facilitated our task and the task of all those who are working for right and justice, enabling us to widen the circle of countries which recognize the militant Palestinian people's national rights.

President Ben Ali then discussed the new prospects for Tunisian-Arab cooperation, notably between Tunisia and the Gulf countries.

In this connection, he said that the preferential relations which our country as with all the Arab countries have been further intensified and consolidated following the political change in the country in November 1987 and following "our establishment of an atmosphere which encourages investment and Arab investors, notably from the Gulf countries. In my view the greatest advantage which Tunisia has given the Arab investor is that his investment is regarded as an entirely Tunisian investment, and there are also other encouraging measures and facilities granted in all sectors and branches of economic activity."

Tunisia has been able to win investors' confidence because of the policy it has pursued since then and because of the numerous cooperation agreements it has signed in various commercial, industrial, and agricultural sectors with many Arab countries.

Tunisia has also encouraged meetings between Tunisian and Arab investors with a view to publicizing the opportunities available for joint projects both in Tunisia and in the Arab countries on the basis of the Gulf's financial resources and Tunisian know-how."

With regard to the situation in Lebanon, President Ben Ali said that Tunisia supports any Arab effort to unite the Lebanese brothers and encourage them to adopt a joint position which would make it possible to avoid the trap of a constitutional vacuum and thwart the plots to divide their country. In this connection, he expressed the hope that current efforts will enable this fraternal country to regain integrity of territory, people, and institutions.

The president of the Republic also mentioned Tunisia's political and diplomatic role on the international stage, stressing that after suffering the repercussions of the internal situation in recent years, Tunisian foreign policy has experienced a strong boost since 7 November and a positive development in relations with many fraternal and friendly countries, notably after the crucial progress made by the states and peoples of the region in building the Greater Arab Maghreb, which is seen as a united and harmonious community.

"We are determined," he said, "to ensure that Tunisia fully plays its role in promoting the causes of freedom, peace, and cooperation within the UN framework... We are also trying to the best of our ability to strengthen the positions of the communities to which we belong, such as the Arab, Islamic, and African communities, and the nonaligned group."

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali also expressed Tunisia's satisfaction with the fact that the United Nations has regained all its efficacy and credibility after the UN secretary general, with the aid of the parties concerned, succeeded in settling current problems like Afghanistan and the Iran-Iraq war with spectacular success.

After reviewing the results of his visit to France—a visit which provided an opportunity for overcoming the effects of the past and setting out the broad outlines of cooperation based on equality and mutual interests—President Ben Ali reaffirmed the importance which the Tunisian Government attaches to the situation of Tunisian communities abroad and the need to guard against the threat from extremist groups.

"Since the decisive change on 7 November," the head of state also stressed, we have stepped up contacts at the highest levels with the European countries to ensure that they adopt the necessary measures for guaranteeing security for our nationals. We have also signed agreements with those countries which take account of the interests of our emigres and the interests of the host country."

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali stressed that the political response to racism must be accompanied by a broader cultural response which is based in particular on psychological preparation and the creation of favorable conditions for peaceful coexistence between nationals and immigrants.

"What we are trying to do," he said, "is to encourage our compatriots to adopt a self-defense mechanism, to make them aware of their rights and duties, and to encourage them to be proud of their nationality and their cultural identity."

With regard to the development of economic and political relations between Tunisia and the socialist countries, President Ben Ali said that "our country is particularly anxious to have equitable and unbiased relations with all friendly countries on the basis of the constant principles of our foreign policy which is based on common interest, mutual respect, and support for just causes."

Joint Committee With Libya Meets on Cooperation
LD0712142888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpts] At the Republic Palace in Carthage this morning, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali conferred with Mr 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah. The meeting was attended by Premier Hedi Baccouche; Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh; Jadal-lah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau; and Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Public Services.

After the meeting, which was also attended by the two countries' general commissioners, Mr 'Umar al-Muntasir made the following statement: We heard the brother president's instructions aiming at bolstering the work of the higher joint committee toward the sought-after goal, which is the building of the Maghreb unity in such a manner that would lead to comprehensive Arab unity. I and my brother Hedi Baccouche will endeavor to realize such instructions as well as whatever the two countries' leader decide. [passage omitted]

At the invitation of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, will pay a state visit to our country. It will begin tomorrow and will last for 4 days. Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi will arrive at Tunis-Carthage International Airport around 1300 and will then tour the capitan's streets in the company of his brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The event will be carried live by the radio and television. During his stay in the Tunisian republic, Col al-Qadhdhafi will also visit Susah, Qayrawan, and Safaqis. Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunisia coincides with the start of the proceedings of the fourth session of the Tunisian-Libyan higher committee.

The proceedings of the fourth session of the Tunisian-Libyan higher joint committee began at the government palace in Casbah yesterday under the chairmanship of Hedi Baccouche and 'Umar al-Muntasir. Mr Hedi Baccouche pointed out that this occasion, which has brought

together Tunisian and Libyan officials, proves the strong political determination of the two countries's leaders, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, to stir the two countries toward more cooperation, integration, and solidarity.

He stressed that the outcome of the higher joint committee should match the political will shown by the two countries' leaders and he pointed out that the three meetings that have so far taken place between them since the 7 November change should be considered proof of the (?political will) to realize the two countries' peoples' aspirations for solidarity and unity.

Mr Umar al-Muntasir also made an address in which he pointed out the excellent brotherly spirit prevailing in the two countries' relations. He asserted that the sincere political will of the leadership in both Tunisia and Libya provides a suitable atmosphere to push further and deepen the unitary action in such a manner that would provide the means for the two countries' impregnability, internally and internationally.

The participants at this meeting examined a report by Abdelhamid Escheikh and Fawzi al-Shakshuki on the main results of the preparatory meeting of the higher joint committee and its subcommittees.

Further Details on Speeches

LD0712224488 Tripoli JANA in English 1818 GMT
7 Dec 88

[Text] Tunis, Al-Kanun [December] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Yesterday evening in sisterly Tunisia the 4th round of sessions of the Libyan Arab-Tunisian Joint Supreme Committee began with both the secretary of the General People's Committee and Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche of sisterly Tunisia attending.

The joint Libyan Arab-Tunisian Supreme Committee includes the members of the General People's Committee in Great Jamahiriyyah and the members of the government in sisterly Tunisia.

The secretary of the General People's Committee delivered a speech at the opening session of the 4th round of the joint Libyan Arab-Tunisian supreme committee expressing extreme appreciation for the unity steps achieved between the sons of the one Arab people in both Great Jamahiriyyah and Tunisia.

He praised the high level being witnessed by the existing bilateral relations stressing the truthful will of the sons of the one Arab people in both Great Jamahiriyyah and sisterly Tunisia that provided the opportunity to advance the unity action so that it takes bigger and deeper steps that surpassed the framework of traditional relations.

He added that such merger that came after the demolishing of the symbol of artificial frontiers between the sons of the one people was able to advance by such historic unity steps faster towards achieving the pan-Arab unity.

He pointed out that such meetings came to clarify the joint matters and back them to achieve the speedy arrival at the goals of the one people in unity. He pointed out that the two countries relations were historic and developed by the will of both leaderships in Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

At the end of his speech, the secretary hailed such unity steps that should pour into the framework of the Arab Maghreb unity. He indicated that the current unity steps between both sisterly countries are not isolated from the forms of the attempts in the Arab homeland "and will never be anything but a strong incentive in the series of attempts to achieve the grant [as received] unity of the Arabs despite the importance of the various forms of cooperation".

Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche of sisterly Tunisia delivered his speech to the opening session in the beginning of

which he welcomed the secretary and the members of the General People's Committee stressing the need to accomplish the unity between the sons of the one Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia through the current unity steps they both are taking, pointing out to the 3 meetings that assembled them together in less than a year that embodied the factual truth responds to the aspirations and hopes of the Arab people in accomplishing unity. He confirmed the keenness of both countries' leaderships to accomplish the will of their one Arab people in the desired unity.

Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche called on the joint Supreme committee to take the appropriate practical steps to advance the unity action between both countries toward unity stressing that Tunisia, following the 7 November change, have confirmed its Arab identity and believed in the need for the pan-Arab unity.

Concluding his speech, Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche expressed pride in the high standard the bilateral relations is witnessing confirming that cooperation between Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia exist without limits or restraints.

Western Sahara

Moroccan-Polisario Talks To Resume at UN
LD0512134088 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] The Saharaoui issue surfaces again in the international arena. Today in New York, the indirect talks between Morocco and the Polisario Front are expected to resume under UN auspices. Abdelkader Teboub has the details:

[Teboub] Mr Perez de Cuellar is expected to meet the head of Moroccan diplomacy, Abdellatif Filali, today and to meet the second in charge of the Polisario, Mr Bachir Mustapha Sayed, in Geneva on 16 December on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session on the Palestinian issue.

According to Mr Mohamed Sidati, Polisario Front foreign minister, the new round of talks will concentrate on the issue of exchanging POW's between the two sides.

Mr Sidati said that the Polisario Front is ready to discuss the exchange of about 2,500 Moroccan soldiers for 500 Saharaoui soldiers, within the framework of complete respect for the Geneva treaty on exchanging prisoners of war. He said that in addition to this number there are about 1,000 civilian political detainees who have disappeared since 1975.

On the other hand, Mr Mohamed Sidati stressed that there are other issues, such as the withdrawal of the Moroccan forces and administration from Saharaoui soil, which cannot be discussed except within the framework of direct negotiation, and which is considered as the necessary condition for a ceasefire in Saharaoui territories.

Bahrain

Ramadan: Iraq Will 'Not Intervene' in Gulf States
*JN0312085888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT
3 Dec 88*

[Text] Manama, 3 Dec (WAKH)—Taha al-Qaysi, Iraqi ambassador to Bahrain, has affirmed that Iraq will not intervene in the internal affairs of Gulf states or other Arab states.

In a statement published by the Bahraini weekly newspaper AL-ADWA' today, Al-Qaysi said that explicit orders have been issued in Iraq for those both inside and outside Iraq not to intervene in the affairs of other Arab states.

He said that there are sides that want to return the psychological barrier between Iraq and the GCC states and to raise doubts on whether Iraq, after the cessation of its war with Iran, wants to intervene in the affairs of these states.

He added that the issue of Arab unity is no longer one of removing borders or regimes but of obtaining unity of objectives. He said that Iraq is eager to maintain the Arab regimes as they are and that it is working to consolidate relations in order to serve the objectives of the Arab nation.

He indicated that Iraq's experience in the 8-year war, during which it paid with its dearest ones, has taught Iraq many lessons and convinced it that certain things must be governed by the logic of reality and ongoing changes. Hence, he said, some theories may not apply to the world of today.

He affirmed that Iraq will not relinquish its rights to the Shatt al-'Arab and will not make concessions because it did not make sacrifices in vain. He affirmed that Iraq will not bow before pressures, if there are any.

He affirmed that Iraq will not hesitate to change the course of Shatt al-'Arab, which is a waterway running through Iraqi territory that constitutes Iraq's only outlet to the sea, while Iran has a 1,600-km coastline.

Ramadan Departs

*JN0712142488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT
7 Dec 88*

[Text] Manama, 7 Dec (WAKH)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and Iraqi first deputy prime minister, left Manama this afternoon after a short visit to Bahrain during which he delivered a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini amir, from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The message dealt with promoting bilateral relations and current developments in the region, in addition to issues of mutual interest.

Upon departure for Doha, he was seen off by Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and a number of ranking officials.

Mr Ramadan also held talks with Bahraini officials centering on current issues in the Gulf region and Arab countries, in addition to promoting cooperation between Bahrain and Iraq.

Infiltrators, Smuggled Ammunition Captured

*JN0312172088 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
1-2 Dec 88 p 1*

[By Salim al-Wawan]

[Text] Customs officers in the port of Al-Shuwaykh have arrested three Ethiopian infiltrators who were hiding in a cabin aboard a cargo ship coming from the Philippines to the country.

Al-'Abdali customs officers have foiled an attempt to smuggle ammunition estimated at 88 Kalashnikov bullets in the possession of the defendant (A.A.), an Iraqi national, who tried to sneak them into the country in his private car. The defendant was arrested at the Al-'Abdali customs post.

The three Ethiopian infiltrators and the ammunition smuggler were referred to the public prosecutor's office along with the case file and the seized material in order to conduct investigations and take the necessary measures against those arrested.

Kuwait

Libya's Al-Kharrubi Delivers Message to Amir

*LD0712110288 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 7 Dec 88*

[Text] His highness the amir received this morning at 1000 hours the member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, the envoy of the leader of the fraternal Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah (SPLAJ), who conveyed to his highness, may God protect him, a message from his brother His Excellency Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Sulayman Sa'd Ali, adviser at his highness's office; and the charge d'affaires of the fraternal SPLAJ to the State of Kuwait.

Visits With Foreign Minister

*LD0712224888 Tripoli JANA in English 1730 GMT
7 Dec 88*

[Text] Kuwait, Al-Kanun [December] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi has met this afternoon Shaykh S.A. Jabir, the Kuwaiti foreign minister.

At this meeting the brotherly relations between the two sisterly countries have been discussed, apart from ways for promoting them to serve the Arab people in Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Kuwait.

Qatar

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives With Message for Amir
*JN0712144088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT
7 Dec 88*

[Text] Doha, 7 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to the amir of the State of Qatar, RCC member, and first deputy prime minister, arrived here from Manama this afternoon.

In a statement to INA, Ramadan said that he is carrying a message from his excellency the president to his brother the Qatari amir on bilateral relations. He added that the message also contains affirmation of Iraq's interest in developing and expanding these relations to serve the Arab nation. Ramadan went on to assert Iraq's pride in the development of fraternal ties binding Iraq to fraternal Qatar.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he will brief the Qatari brothers on the latest developments of the direct negotiations and assert to them Iraq's clear stand as well as its adherence to its natural rights and its commitment to Arab causes.

Ramadan was welcomed at Doha airport by Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad Al Thani, a number of Qatari officials, and the Iraqi ambassador in Doha.

The Iraqi delegation comprises Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nuri al-Wayyis and a number of officials.

Confers With Amir

*JN0712192588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT
7 Dec 88*

[Text] Doha, 7 Dec (INA)—Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, received here this evening Taha Yasin Ramadan, personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, RCC member, and first deputy prime minister.

During the meeting, Ramadan conveyed to Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and the latter's affirmation of Iraq's pride in the existing bilateral fraternal ties as well as his excellency the president's earnest eagerness to bolster and enhance these ties in order to help realize the Arab nation's strength and unity.

Ramadan reviewed with Shaykh Khalifah the direct Iraq-Iran negotiations and affirmed that Iraq adheres to its legitimate and natural rights. He also indicated that

the Iranian officials are placing obstacles obstructing the attainment of a comprehensive and durable peace through the repeated statements being made by the Iranian officials—statements which call for mobilizing troops and sending them to the warfronts—and through the Iranian president's announcement of the termination of exchanging sick and wounded POW's.

Ramadan also asserted Iraq's determination to exert serious efforts to bring about a comprehensive and durable peace based on the sequential implementation of the articles contained in UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

His highness the Qatari amir asked Taha Yasin Ramadan to convey his fraternal greetings to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and to affirm to him Qatar's eagerness to strengthen and expand fraternal bilateral ties to serve the common bilateral interests and consequently the interests of our Arab nation.

During the meeting—attended on the Qatari side by Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad Al Thani and on the Iraqi side by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nuri al-Wayyis and the Iraqi ambassador in Qatar—the two sides discussed the current Arab situation and the importance of unifying the Arab stance and intensifying contacts among the Arab brethren to hold inter-Arab consultations and effect coordination in order to help realize the Arabs' strength and unity in order to meet the challenges and confront the conspiracies being hatched against them.

Departs for YAR

*JN0812102688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0748 GMT
8 Dec 88*

[Text] Doha, 8 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's envoy, RCC member, and first deputy prime minister, left Doha for Sanaa today, concluding a brief visit to Qatar. During the visit, he conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar. Taha Yasin Ramadan was seen off at Doha airport by Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad Al Thani, Qatari interior minister; a number of Qatari officials; and the Iraqi ambassador in Doha.

PNC Speaker To Attend PLO 'Speech Rally'

*JN0812100688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0640 GMT
8 Dec 88*

[Text] Doha, 8 Dec (WAKH)—PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih arrived in Doha this morning on a visit to Qatar lasting several days. Shaykh al-Sa'ih will participate in the speech rally the PLO office in Doha will hold on the passage of 1 year since the Palestinian uprising broke out in the occupied territories.

United Arab Emirates

'Arafat's Political Adviser Arrives 7 Dec

*JN0712172488 Manama WAKH in English 1657 GMT
7 Dec 88*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 7 (GNA)—Hani al-Hasan, political advisor to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasir 'Arafat, arrived here today from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for a several days' visit to the UAE.

While here, the PLO official will hold talks with UAE officials on the situation of the occupied Arab territories in light of the escalating heroic Palestinian uprising which completed its first year.

He will also review with officials here efforts being exerted to resolve the Palestinian problem in light of the decisions adopted by the Palestinian National Council at its session in Algiers last month, especially the declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

War Victims Official Appeals to UN, Red Cross
*JN0712115488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT
7 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA)—Dr Akram al-Watari, chairman of the permanent committee of war victims, has appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], the United Nations, and the international community to pressure Iran to abide by the agreement signed in Geneva. This came in a message he sent to ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga in Geneva. Here is the text of the message:

Your Excellency the ICRC President in Geneva. I have the honor to inform you that we have acquainted ourselves with the message sent to you by the Iranian foreign minister on 29 November 1988 regarding the exchange of the sick and wounded POW's. It must be clear to you that the message contains lies. The Iranian minister claims that Iraq violated the agreement on the exchange of the sick and wounded POW's whose names are listed with the ICRC—an agreement signed in Geneva on 11 November 1988. This method reflects the Iranian regime's lies, deception, and misleading of Iranian and world public opinions.

You know that it is the Iranian authorities who violated the agreement by delaying the exchange operation for 2 days and then by treacherously reducing to less than half the number of each group of the sick and wounded POW's to be handed over by Iran under that agreement. The agreement stipulates that Iran should have handed over 115 POW's daily, but Iran has only handed over 52 and 51 POW's. It has fabricated absolutely illegitimate pretexts by which it claims that some of those on the list were released and that others recovered from their sickness. No documents confirming these allegations were submitted. By this, Iran wants to make the exchanged numbers equal, 52 against 41 [number as received], while the agreement is based on the exchange of all of the sick and wounded POW's regardless of their number.

As we have pointed out, the Iranian authorities have presented no official documents to support their pretexts. Moreover, these pretexts have not been supported by the ICRC. Contrary to the Geneva Convention, the ICRC was not allowed to see the POW's Iran claimed to have released. In light of this, we have asked the ICRC to provide us with the necessary documents which prove that some sick and wounded POW's were released and that others have been cured of the serious incurable diseases listed in the first annex of the 1949 Geneva Convention on POW's. We have also demanded that Iran hand over the agreed number of the sick and wounded Iraqi POW's in accordance with the agreement signed by the Iranian side so that Iraq may deal with Iran in kind and return the corresponding number of POW's.

When we demanded that we be provided with official documents on the absence of half of the sick and wounded POW's, the Iranian authorities decided to stop the exchange of the sick and wounded POW's as its cheating was exposed. Therefore, Iran should be held fully responsible for its decision.

At a time when it reiterates its full readiness to abide by the implementation of the agreement on the exchange of the sick and wounded POW's in accordance with the previously mentioned number, the Government of the Republic of Iraq appeals to the ICRC, the United Nations, and to the international community to pressure Iran to abide by the pertinent agreement signed in Geneva, to stop dealing with this humanitarian issue in a deceptive manner with the objective of using the POW issue as a political card, to immediately begin a full and comprehensive exchange of all POW's, and to return them to their homelands thereby ending their suffering and their families' anguish in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 on POW's.

With my best regards,

[Signed] Dr Akram al-Watari, Chairman of the Permanent Committee of War Victims

[Dated] Baghdad on 6 December 1988

President Saddam Addresses War Donors Ceremony
*JN0712163188 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT
7 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 7, INA—President Saddam Husayn has praised the role of Iraqi women in providing a genuine moral and material backing to the men during the war. "This backing had created additional energies to our morale", the president said at a ceremony today during which a group of donors were awarded with honorary badges in acknowledgement for their generous contributions. The president stressed that every Iraqi harbours profound appreciation towards any moral and material Arab effort and contribution.

The ceremony was attended by Vice-Chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim; the head of the Presidency Dewan, Mr. Ahmad Husayn; the president's secretary; and the press and information secretary, Mr. Hani Wuhayyib.

UN Commander Departs After 1-Week Visit
*JN0812090588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT
8 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—SFRY General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN observer team entrusted with supervising the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, left Baghdad for Tehran this morning after 1-week visit

to Iraq. Jovic makes shuttle tours between Baghdad and Tehran to acquaint himself with the work of the UN observer team in Iraq and Iran.

Peres: Swedish Reading of 'Arafat Statement 'Odd'

TA0712161388 Tel Aviv Educational Television
in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Gid'on Reicher—live in studio]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reicher] We will not part before I ask you about an event that we think is really dramatic. We now hear that 'Arafat is visiting Sweden, and that there is an announcement about the recognition of Israel's right to exist. The Swedish foreign minister sees that as a breakthrough. Do you think so as well?

[Peres] I must tell you that I am a little surprised by this way of presenting the issue. If 'Arafat has anything to say, since when is Sweden's foreign minister a spokesman for the PLO? Why did 'Arafat not read this announcement? You know, I wrote numerous letters after the PNC convention in Algiers. These were very harsh letters, I must say, concerning the PLO. I received many responses, both private and public. They told me: Mr Peres, you have taken such an extreme position; cannot you see any change in Algiers?

I said: What are you talking about? How long, do you think, will we be pushed around by 'Arafat's statements. He threw bombs here. He made the situation go to the extreme on the eve of our elections. He even influenced the election results through his stones and firebombs more than through speeches and declarations. I am furious at this. Then he declares that he condemns terror. What does he mean by the condemnation? Why should he condemn it? Why not stop it?

[Reicher] The Swedes, however, are very excited....

[Peres] You did not ask me about Sweden. The Swedes are a neutral people. They maintain neutrality. They enjoy it. They are a nation of a completely different mentality. You are not talking to a neutral person here. I find it very odd that a Swedish foreign minister should get up and read out a statement for 'Arafat. Cannot 'Arafat read and write?

[Reicher] Mr Peres, thank you very much.

[Peres] Thank you.

Jerusalem Arabic Cites Spokesman on U.S. Jews

JN0712155288 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1535 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] A spokesman for the [Israeli] Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem issued a statement this afternoon in which he asserted that the U.S. Jews who met Yasir 'Arafat in Stockholm cannot be considered representatives of Israel or any important Jewish organization in the United States and that those persons represent only themselves.

Foreign Ministry Dismisses PLO Announcement

TA0712183788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry spokesman has dismissed the reports from Stockholm as PLO and Swedish attempts to grant more credibility to the Algiers decisions. On another issue the spokesman condemned Greece for setting free the terrorist who planted a bomb in a synagogue in Rome in 1982. Jack Katzenell reports:

If the reports reaching us from Stockholm from various sources are true, the Foreign Ministry spokesman says, we have before us an additional commentary on the PNC decisions in Algiers. But it does nothing to upgrade the ambiguity and double-talk which the PLO used then. If this is the outcome of the meeting in Stockholm, the Jerusalem spokesman said, we see it as a PLO-Swedish attempt to grant more credibility to the Algiers decisions. [passage omitted]

More on Peres Reaction to 'Arafat Declaration

TA0712202788 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1930 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] In reaction to Yasir 'Arafat's statement in Sweden, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said a short time ago that only if the PLO unequivocally declares an end to terrorism and violence, fully accepts UN Resolution 242, and unequivocally recognizes Israel will it be possible to treat it seriously. For the moment, Peres added, we hear one style in Algiers and see a different style involving violence and terrorism in Israel.

Shamir Comments on PLO-Swedish Announcement

TA0712201188 Jerusalem Television Service
in Hebrew 1910 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yig'al Goren in Shamir's office "this evening"—videorecorded]

[Text] [Goren] Mr Prime Minister, what is your reaction to the statement issued this evening at the end of 'Arafat's visit in Sweden in which he stated that he and the PLO actually recognize the existence of the State of Israel and in which they have made some sort of as yet unclear declaration to terminate all forms of terrorism?

[Shamir] First of all, I have not seen the full text. But as far as terminating terror is concerned, we are the ones who know the truth. The acts of terrorism have not stopped for even one minute, and the fact that we in Israel do not feel them is not because the terrorist organizations have given up their deeds, but because of the success of our security services and the IDF.

As for declarations: They are ready to declare anything, but their intention, ambition, and philosophy remain unchanged—namely, to annihilate the State of Israel.

Perhaps now they think they can proceed to tackle the first stage of the annihilation plan—namely, to get Israel to withdraw to the 1967 borders and to establish a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza amid temporary recognition of the State of Israel in its reduced boundaries. This is only in theory, because in practice they have nothing. They have achieved nothing, and they will not achieve anything, either.

[Goren] In other words, at this moment and despite the interpretations given throughout the world, you do not actually see any positive change in the PLO's policy.

[Shamir] I do not see any change now, and I do not think I will ever see any substantial change because the PLO was created to annihilate the State of Israel. The day they arrive at the conclusion that this is impossible and infeasible they will have to disband.

[Goren] Sir, what is your reaction to the fact that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' decision not to allow 'Arafat to address the United Nations created a situation where for the first time in almost 40 years the General Assembly will convene in Geneva in 'Arafat's honor? What can Israel do to counter this situation?

[Shamir] I do not think Israel can do anything serious in terms of public relations. There have been numerous UN votes of 150 versus 2, with the United States and Israel being the only ones voting against an issue. What Israel must do is see to it that the PLO and its henchmen do not achieve anything in the field. On the contrary, they must fail.

Swedish Ambassador Comments on 'Arafat's Visit
TA0712121388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Sweden's Ambassador in Israel Mats Bergquist says that Stockholm was happy to be able to organize a meeting between 'Arafat and a group of American Jews. Reporter Ari'el O'Sullivan spoke to him this morning, and asked him how he felt Israel should view 'Arafat's visit.

[Begin recording] [Bergquist] My hope is that the Israeli public and public opinion in Israel will recognize that the intentions are that we should contribute to the peace process. It is not intended to anguish. We are not taking sides between Israel and the Palestinians. We are making Stockholm a venue for what we hope will be important meetings.

[O'Sullivan] In the aftermath of the meetings between 'Arafat and Swedish leaders—last night he met with the prime minister and today he will be meeting with the foreign minister—there has been increased anger in Israel against Sweden. In fact, Ambassador Eliyahu Ben-Elisar—the former ambassador to Egypt, and a member of Knesset—has called for you to leave Israel. What is your reaction to this?

[Bergquist] Well, I am sorry to hear that this is the reaction over 'Arafat. But it is just the opposite. We have been continuously underlining our support for the right of Israel to live between secure and recognized borders. Our support for Israel's territorial integrity has been steadfast all along. We have also said several times that we are in support of Palestinian self-determination.

We think it is impossible in the Middle East to organize some kind of peaceful solution unless there is a contact between the Palestinians and Israel. That means that we have to contribute to this dialogue, and this should be seen as a step in that direction. [end recording]

'Significant Progress' Seen in 'Arafat Statement
TA0812111988 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
8 Dec 88 p A14

[Editorial: "Following the Meeting in Sweden"]

[Text] The document presented by the Swedish foreign minister following his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Stockholm, as well as the remarks of the PLO chief in the news conference there regarding the acceptance of the Jewish state alongside Palestine, completely outweigh the question of how significant the five American Jews who conducted the talks with 'Arafat are and that of who authorized them to hold the talks.

The important thing is to examine and assess the document which sums up these talks and 'Arafat's remarks.

It is true that in the document's four clauses and in 'Arafat's remarks there are some points susceptible to various interpretations, such as the use of the term "the acceptance of the existence of Israel as a country in the region," instead of a statement of direct recognition of Israel. The document does not carry any signatures; it was merely read out by the Swedish foreign minister, who said that it was also acceptable to 'Arafat.

The rejection and denunciation of terrorism is conditional upon the cessation of terrorism "also by states"—it is clear who and what are referred to here.

Nevertheless, there seems to be significant progress here on the part of the PLO chief, at least insofar as he is giving a far-reaching interpretation to the PNC statement from Algiers. This statement mentions the UN decisions, including UN Resolution 181—the 1947 partition decision—which gives legitimacy to a Palestinian state but only implicitly legitimizes a Jewish state as well. Yesterday 'Arafat interpreted the PNC statement as accepting the existence of Israel.

We think that Israeli elements should not hurry to reject or downplay the document and 'Arafat's remarks, as they already did yesterday. These things should be examined

more deeply, and we should also wait to see how 'Arafat's associates, the leaders of the other organizations, will react. Only then should we react in the appropriate way.

Gorbachev Speaks With UN Envoy About Hijacking
TA0812053588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev has spoken warmly of Israel. The UN secretary general held a reception for the Soviet leader with the participation of all the UN delegations, during which Gorbachev approached our ambassador Yohanan Bein, and said: I want to thank you again for your cooperation in the hijacking drama. Our ambassador responded: We are known for our ability to improvise.

To that, the Soviet statesman replied: Please pass on to your government and the people of Israel that we have a lot of friendship and good will toward you in our hearts. The remarks at the reception were reported by our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Shamir Urges Hastening Talks With Ultraorthodox
TA0712121888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1030 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir ordered the Likud negotiating team to speed up the discussions with the ultraorthodox parties. In consultations at Mr Shamir's office this morning, it was decided that if the Alignment comes up with a proposal for setting up a broad-based government, it would be considered. The Likud, however, is continuing its efforts to set up a government with the small parties.

Likud, Tehiya, NRP Agree on Settlement Plan
TA0712185088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The Likud and Tehiya have agreed on a settlement plan for Judeaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip which states that 10 new settlements would be set up each year the new government is in power. A similar document was agreed upon by the negotiating teams of the Likud and the National Religious Party [NRP].

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that the NRP also agreed on the construction of 5,000 housing units within a year and 20,000 within the next 4 years. The settlement plan mentions the reclaiming of houses in the Old City of Jerusalem, the renovation of houses in Hebron, and the expansion of the infrastructure, including roads, in settlements in Judeaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

AL-FAJR: Shultz Could Be 'Persona Non Grata'
TA0612164188 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
5 Dec 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Lessons From Shultz"]

[Text] The United States Government has opted once again to vote against peace in the Middle East. By denying PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat entry to the U.S. to address the United Nations General Assembly, the U.S. has in reality prevented a whole nation, struggling for its legitimate rights, from freely expressing its views.

By denying 'Arafat this right, the U.S. Government has violated a principle it claims it cherishes and protects above all others: the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, that guarantees the freedom of expression and the right of the people to information. The U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz willingly chose to violate this principle when he made his rash and reckless decision to deny 'Arafat an entry visa.

What the U.S. apparently failed to realize was that 'Arafat and the Palestinian people do not need U.S. approval to express their views. 'Arafat did not seek a visa to beg the U.S. Administration to talk to him, but sought entry to exercise his right to address the international body, which the U.S. has no control over other than the unfortunate fact that its headquarters is located on U.S. soil.

It will be easy for the UN General Assembly to move the discussion of the Palestinian question to another location, such as Geneva, where 'Arafat can freely deliver the speech he wanted to give in New York. The world will hear 'Arafat and the Palestinian people's views anyway.

This latest U.S. measure, however, ought to teach a lesson to the Palestinians, the Arabs and the entire world.

The lesson the Palestinians should learn is that the U.S. policy toward the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is very Zionist and, therefore, it can never be expected to take even a neutral stand towards the Palestinians, regardless of who is in the White House. The U.S. is totally locked into its relationship with Israel, blind to a point where it will be a long time before it can see again, assuming that day ever comes. The examples proving this are numerous and are added to every day.

It was clear when the U.S. administration and Israel stood alone in rejecting, in whole, the latest Palestine National Council resolutions, just as they stand alone in denying 'Arafat the right to address the UN. The two are inseparable in the way they think and in their hostility toward the Palestinian people.

For the Arab world, the lesson is the same. The U.S. can never be looked at, or ever thought of, as an ally concerned about Arab interests. The U.S. is concerned

with its and Israel's interests only. For this reason, the Arab governments need to start selfishly thinking of their interests. At the moment their interests dictate that they answer the U.S. arrogance with the same. Requesting that the UN deliberation on Palestine be moved elsewhere is one step in the right direction.

Another step could be refusing to meet any more officials from the Reagan administration. With U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci due to visit the Gulf soon, an appropriate step would be for those countries to cancel his visit.

Another step might be to make George Shultz persona non grata in the Arab world, denying him entry visas if he ever thought of visiting any of the Arab countries.

The lesson for the entire world is that the U.S. is not at all interested in peace in the Middle East. It should now be clear to them that the U.S. demand on the PLO for concessions prior to peace negotiations was in reality an attempt to delay the peace process by putting preconditions that the U.S. knew the Palestinians would have a difficult time accepting.

More on Bedouin 'PLO Cell'; Arens Comments
TA0712105688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 7 Dec 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Ya'aqov Friedler, David Rudge, and Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpts] Haifa—The alleged perpetrators of last July's grenade attack in the crowded Nordau pedestrian mall have been arrested.

The grenade blew off the leg of a small boy and wounded 24 other Saturday night strollers.

The 13 suspects, all Bedouin, including two soldiers and two women, allegedly formed a PLO cell and also carried out a number of additional terror attacks for Fatah.

Chief of the Haifa police Tat-Nitzav [Deputy Commander] Yosef Levi said last night that the cell had received "general instructions and some funds from Fatah, from outside the country, but had been left to work out detailed operations on their own."

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 7 December in a page 3 report by Yo'av Aviv adds: "It was later learned that the terrorist squad's leader was Samir Salah Sarsawi, who had recruited his two sisters, Nawul and Mufidah." The report adds that "Sarsawi was recruited in Egypt into a radical Fatah faction. His handlers operated out of Athens, Greece. The squad was exposed 2 weeks ago, after Sarsawi returned from Greece where he had met with his handlers."]

The two women had been only marginally involved and had not taken actual part in any of the acts ascribed to the group, he said.

The grenades they used, and five others in their possession, were IDF issue, Levi said, but he would not give details on how they had been obtained. [passage omitted]

Bedouin in the North expressed shock that two former soldiers were members of the terror cell. Bedouin leaders said they hoped the incident would not harm relations between Bedouin and Jews in general, or with the army in particular.

Thousands of Bedouin have served in the IDF and recently there has been a marked increase in the number volunteering to join the army. Many are trackers in combat units and in the Border Police.

The fact that two members of the terror cell were soldiers should have no bearing on Israel's policy of drafting minorities into the armed forces, said Minister Moshe Arens, who is in charge of Arab affairs.

"I don't see any reason to draw hasty conclusions from this one incident," Arens, a former defence minister, told THE JERUSALEM POST by phone last night. "I remain convinced that everything possible should be done to encourage young Bedouin men to serve in the IDF just as the Druze and Circassians serve.

"There are some very senior Druze officers in the IDF, including a tat-aluf, [brigadier general] and the Druze are among our best soldiers," he said.

Conceding that some minorities soldiers in the IDF may have divided loyalties, Arens added it was no reason for them not to serve.

"There are also some Jewish soldiers with divided loyalties. There are Jews who refuse to serve in certain situations, and others who desert. This is a problem in the armed forces of all countries," he said.

Further on Disturbances, Strike in Territories

More on 6 Dec Unrest
TA0712121588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 7 Dec 88 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Troops shot and wounded at least eight Palestinians in the territories yesterday during clashes that erupted during a general strike in solidarity with prisoners at the "Ansar 3" detention camp at Qezi'ot. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 7 December in a page two report by 'Eran Taus, Pinhas 'Inbari, and ITIM, adds: "Nabulus hospitals have reported that 29

persons wounded by beatings and rubber bullets have been admitted for medical treatment." The report further states: "Palestinian sources have said that in the past few days, the IDF has increased the use of gas, rubber bullets, and beatings. This is the reason for the relatively low number of gunshot injuries."

The IDF has begun beefing up its forces in expectation of increased unrest during two more strike-days called this week in the latest leaflet (No. 30) of the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising". The strikes on Thursday and Friday are to mark the end of the first year of the uprising, and the start of the second.

The leaflet blamed "the enemy media" for reports of rifts in the Palestinian camp between Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. However the leaflet itself appeared to be circulating in two versions, reflecting the views of both factions.

One version, apparently influenced by the PFLP, indirectly criticised acceptance of UN resolutions 242 and 338 by the Palestine National Council, but indicated that such disagreement should not undermine Palestinian national unity. The leaflet set a third strike date for December 21, the anniversary of the "Peace Day" strike last year by Israeli Arabs. [passage omitted]

In the Gaza Strip, seven persons were reported wounded during clashes at Dayr al-Balah and Khan Yunus.

The mother of the five-year-old boy shot in Dayr al-Balah said shabab [youths] were cursing soldiers while her son and several other children were playing outside her home, when she heard shots and saw the boy lying on the ground writhing in pain. He was later reported out of danger after having the bullet removed at the Al-Ahali Hospital in Gaza.

The IDF spokesman said last night the incident was still under investigation. He said there had been some stoning in Dayr al-Balah, and that troops shot plastic bullets, but the soldiers had not noticed children in the area.

In other incidents, a 12-year-old was grazed in the head by a bullet at Khan Yunus, and a 17-year-old was wounded in Gaza's Sabra neighbourhood.

Meanwhile the IDF clamped curfew on most of the Strip's refugee camps. The Jabalya, Shaburah, Al-Nusayrat, Yibna (also known as NPK), Al-Buraj and Al-Shati' camps were under curfew yesterday, confining some 200,000 people to their homes.

At the Strip's southern tip Jewish settlers laid the cornerstone for Rafiah Yam's permanent houses. Twenty five such houses are to be built there in the first stage, they said.

'Uprising' Death Tolls Compared

TA0712123488 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew
7 Dec 88 p 10

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 5 December, the IDF spokesman reported a total of 246 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The number does not include those killed by settlers' gunfire.

Contrary to the IDF spokesman's report, Major General Ehud Barak, deputy chief of the general staff, has admitted that 301 Palestinians were killed in the occupied territories since the beginning of the intifada [uprising].

According to the HA'OLAM HAZE count, the total number of fatalities since the beginning of the intifada, which will be 1 year old this week, stands at 338.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, have reported 427 dead according to the following breakdown:

- 286 killed by IDF and settlers' fire.
- 66 killed through asphyxiation.
- 37 dead by beatings and electrocution.
- 38 dead by other causes.

2 Firebombs Thrown in Jerusalem

TA0712124888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Two firebombs were thrown a short time ago at a building belonging to Jerusalem city hall on Ha'aspani Street in the Old City. Our police affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that the firebombs ignited, causing slight damage to the frame of the front door, but nobody was hurt.

IDF Soldier Wounded

TA0712192388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] An IDF soldier was slightly wounded this evening near Qiryat Arba' when shots were fired at an IDF patrol. He was treated on the spot, and later evacuated to Hadassah 'En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the IDF has closed the area and started searches.

9 Wounded in 7 Dec Riots

TA0712210888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that two inhabitants were wounded today during a riot in the casbah of Nabulus.

Arab sources in the Gaza Strip report that seven inhabitants were wounded today in riots in the Gaza Strip, most of them in Bani Suhaylah and some of them in Khan Yunus.

1 Dies of Wounds in Janin

TA0812114288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Report by 'Eran Ben-Porat]

[Text] Two people were wounded while violently resisting a security forces operation in Kafr Ra'i in Samaria. One of the wounded later died at a Janin hospital.

The IDF initiated search operations in dozens of villages in Judaea and Samaria.

Military sources report that a thorough debriefing by the security forces on yesterday's incident in which an IDF soldier was shot in Hebron shows that several shots were fired at a bus transporting soldiers. The soldier was wounded by the one of the gunshots.

There is a full commercial strike in the territories today prior to the first anniversary of the intifada [uprising] tomorrow.

A curfew was imposed on all refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. There is a general commercial, education, and services strike throughout the Strip. Also, workers did not go to their jobs in Israel. There were several attempts to burn tires and cause disturbances this morning, but reinforced troops dispersed the demonstrators. There is now a tense quiet in the region.

Jordan Halts Territories' Agricultural Imports

TA0612134988 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
6 Dec 88 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Jordan has completely suspended the import of agricultural produce from the territories. Our correspondent says that this is Jordan's toughest move ever against the territories and that it contradicts the official declarations of support for the intifada [uprising] and Palestinian independence.

According to observers who recently returned from Amman, the Jordanian move is seen as a form of pressure on the PLO, perhaps because the talks that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat held recently in Amman were unsuccessful.

It appears that Jordan is not prepared to absorb huge quantities of West Bank olive oil and is instead buying olive oil from Tunisia. Jordan is not prepared to buy citrus fruit from the territories and is not even ready to

permit the transfer of citrus to other Arab countries. The territories recently began to export citrus to Europe via Israeli ports, and this development may have angered Jordan.

AL-QUDS: Jordanian Measures Harm Palestinians

TA0612192288 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
6 Dec 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Difficult Questions at a Critical Stage"]

[Text] We are aware that Jordan is facing multifaceted economic problems. In light of this, decisionmakers in Amman have adopted a series of measures aimed at curbing imports and lowering the value of the dinar in order to encourage exports. These are normal steps taken by any country that faces economic difficulties.

Some of the Jordanian decisions, such as the banning of citrus imports until the end of March 1989 even though Palestinian produce was only to pass through Jordan to Arab markets, have directly harmed the occupied Palestinian territories. This is liable to inflict heavy losses to the economies of the occupied territories, particularly in light of the unusual situation in these areas.

The EC countries understand the difficulties that the agricultural sector in the occupied territories is facing. In view of this, the European countries have been trying over the last three years to pave the way for the Palestinian farmer to export his produce directly to European markets without any intermediaries. At a time when this matter is still at the initial stage of development, and after the outline of the program became clear, the Jordanian decision banning the import of our citrus to Jordanian markets was issued.

A single glance at the Jordanian economy clearly indicates that closing the bridges to agricultural produce from the occupied territories will not solve Jordan's economic problems. The dimensions and effects of this decision will be limited to an immense loss on the local agricultural sector. It was incumbent on Jordan and the Arab states to adopt decisions that would make it easier for the Palestinian resident in the occupied territories to live in dignity and enable him to continue farming and exploiting the land.

Instead, the agricultural sector in the occupied territories finds itself facing immense problems which will add to its crippling economic difficulties. The marketing of agricultural produce from the occupied territories is commercially unfeasible in Israeli markets, and if this is expanded to include Jordanian markets, whose concern will it then be? This is a simple question that we are posing to decisionmakers in Jordan and to all decisionmakers in the Arab world. We hope that the question will be answered in a manner equivalent to the responsibilities and challenges confronting the Palestinian people in particular and the Arab nations in general.

Moreover, why is the Palestinian resident prohibited from bringing any gift with him to his relatives and friends in Jordan? What is the economic reason for such a decision? Finally, what is the rationale for levying license fees of 150 dinars annually on trucks from the occupied territories? Are not the exorbitant fees, taxes, and licenses levied by the Israeli authorities enough for the truck owners?

Many of these questions might be distressing, but the current circumstances under which the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are living have reached such a difficult and complex stage that it has become necessary for them to pose these questions to their Arab brothers in Jordan and elsewhere.

King Husayn Comments on Regional Issues
*LD0812095288 Kuwait KUNA in English 0830 Gmt
8 Dec 88*

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 8 (KUNA)—King Husayn of Jordan was hopeful the Palestinian problem would be settled by next spring as the world view towards Israel vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue has changed.

"I believe next spring will be vital for the Palestinian issue and we will have something tangible regarding this issue," King Husayn said in an interview with the Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH published here today.

The Jordanian monarch was of the opinion that there was pressure on Israel to exchange territories for peace.

Asked on Arab leaders cooperation on major issues, King Husayn said of late the Arab political thinking had shown a remarkable change for the better and that the Arab people have better feel of the political pulse and will not be easily misled.

"If Arab leaders do not work and contribute towards the interests of their people, they will find themselves isolated by the Arab people and face internal pressure," King Husayn added.

King Husayn noted that present problems of the Arab world, such as border questions, are like time bombs which can be detonated by foreign hands. He stressed that Arab border problems must be resolved in the Arab world.

"All indications are that the Arabs are on the verge of a new important era. To make this a reality, it is imperative that we solve the border problems," he said.

In this connection he said President Saddam Husayn of Iraq had said he would be relieved when the border issue between Kuwait and Iraq was solved.

"The delay in preparing the text of an agreement on this issue was due to the Iraqi foreign minister being busy with the peace talks with Iran. Saddam promised to find another person who could draw up the text of the agreement," King Husayn said.

King Husayn has called for the convening of an Arab summit and stressed that Egypt should be restored to the Arab fold.

"It is also vital that Egypt be readmitted to the Arab League and the basic charter revised to suit present conditions," he added.

"Naturally, the majority want Egypt back in the fold. All it needs is the holding of the summit and an agreement to invite Mubarak to join the summit. What is really needed is to hold the summit even without agenda to invite the participation of Egypt," he said.

Responding to a question on the U.S. refusal to grant visa to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, King Husayn said: "We have gained from the U.S. refusal to grant 'Arafat a visa. The Palestinian issue has won overwhelming support and next week 'Arafat will address the U.N. General Assembly in Geneva."

"U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz speaks the language of Israel's extreme right. Still, we do not advise a dispute with the U.S. Administration at present," Husayn said.

On Iran-Iraq war, King Husayn said for all practical reasons the war has ended "but peace negotiations should not be prolonged like in the case of North and South Korea. Arab countries should send clear signals to Iran that the Arabs support Iraq in peace and in war."

Speaking on home affairs, King Husayn attributed the decline of the Jordanian currency to local and external factors.

He said the Jordanian dinar was over valued in the past causing export problems indicating that it now reflects its real market value.

"However, external factors did contribute to this decline. Some Arab countries stopped lending to Jordan, leading to a decrease in foreign currency," he said.

King Returns From Working Visits Abroad
*JN0712182688 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 7 Dec 88*

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned to Amman this evening after working visits to the YAR, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the UK. [passage omitted]

JORDAN TIMES on Palestinians' 'Heroic Defiance'
*JN0812083488 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
8-9 Dec 88 p 4*

[Editorial: "One Year Old and Growing"]

[Text] Today marks the first anniversary of the Palestinian uprising. On this very day last year, the spark of the Palestinian revolt in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was touched off by the deliberate ramming of Palestinians in Gaza by an Israeli military truck causing the death of four. In fact the Palestinian intifada had started the very day the Israeli armed forces occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip back in 1967 and had been simmering ever since. Since that fateful day last year, however, the Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation has been assuming ever new dimensions and intensity ranging from becoming the deepest ever sustained revolt against Israeli occupation and oppression to the strongest ever assertion of Palestinian identity on Palestinian soil.

In addition to defying all Israeli expectations that the uprising would fizzle out and dissipate in a matter of few weeks, the Palestinian stone throwers and freedom torch carriers continued their heroic defiance of the Israeli war machine till this day and will continue till they achieve freedom. Indeed much harder than the stones hurled at the Israeli occupying forces is the iron will of the Palestinian people to wage a relentless contest against Israeli occupation and oppression till complete liberty and self-determination are realised.

True, the casualty list on the Palestinian side in terms of lives and sufferings has been high over the past year. But the price could even become higher in the days and months that lie ahead as long as Israel persists in ignoring and rejecting the legitimate yearnings and aspirations of the Palestinian people. Conversely, the struggling Palestinians has not refrained from making peaceful overtures to the Israelis and have not stopped sending signals at great risks to the unity of their ranks that they seek honourable peace and security for all sides. Alas, nothing positive and encouraging whatsoever has been forthcoming from the Israeli side in return for the genuine offers for peace by the Arab side for durable peace in the Middle East. Instead, the Israeli side maintained the rendition of their sterile rejection of all genuine Arab offers to engage them in a fruitful dialogue under the aegis of the United Nations on the basis of internationally accepted norms and standards as enunciated by the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Certainly all Arabs from the Atlantic to the Gulf and all freedom- and peace-loving peoples of the world should salute the struggling Palestinians on this solemn day and should renew their pledges to honor their commitments to them till their rights and aspirations are fully restored. There is no going back, for the bells of freedom have tolled in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Confers With Kuwaiti Minister
JN0712212088 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office today Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi, finance minister in the sisterly State of Kuwait. During the meeting they discussed the existing relations of cooperation in all fields and ways to develop and strengthen them in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Present at the meeting were the ministers of finance, industry, and trade, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman.

Development Bank Introduces Risk-Capital Loans
JN0812082788 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
8-9 Dec 88 p 8

[By Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman—For the first time in Jordan, the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) is introducing risk-capital

loans to entrepreneurs in an effort to encourage local participation in industrial and tourism development projects.

Risk-capital loans are credits given to any beneficiary who presents a sound project but either has no capital or lacks funds to start it. The bank grants the money needed in any of the two aforementioned forms at its own risk and after intense study without recourse to the borrower at any time for repayment in case of losses.

The IDB has at its disposal an amount of one million European Currency Units (ECUs)—about JD [Jordanian dinars] 550,000 (one JD equals ECU 1.8)—which could be lent to "any person who has a useful idea to develop or set an industry but doesn't have the necessary financial means," according to Taysir Wahbah, manager of the IDB's technical department.

The amount was obtained from the European Investment Bank (EIB), an arm of the European Community (EC), under an agreement signed in Luxembourg Dec 1, Wahbah said.

The terms and conditions governing the IDB's risk-capital scheme are also stipulated in the agreement, he said.

Wahbah said any entrepreneur with ideas to develop projects in the industrial sector and tourism could secure a loan ranging between 50,000 ECUs and 300,000 ECUs. The loans will carry an as yet undefined but low interest rate and will mature in 25 years, he said.

Wahbah explained the risk factor by pointing out that the loans would be granted mostly on the basis of the merits and feasibility of the concerned project on a case-by-case basis rather than guarantees and collateral.

"This type of financing is appropriate to promote new industrial activities" in the Kingdom, he said, "since part of the risk is borne by the IDB and interest rate is also low."

Simultaneous with the one million ECU loan, the IDB also obtained another EIB loan of 10 million ECUs which will be utilised in the regular financing operations of the bank.

The regular operations involve higher interest rates and usually mature in 12 years with a grace period of four years.

The IDB will pay an interest of 5.3 per cent per annum to the EIB and the loan will mature in 12 years with a grace period of four years, Wahbah told the JORDANIAN TIMES in an interview this week.

"This loan will be designated for loans for various types of projects which the IDB has currently in the pipeline or has approved in the last couple of months," Wahbah said. "There is no priority, there is no preference. The amount will be allocated in the next 24 months."

The one million ECU loan, Wahbah said, is the first of its kind that the IDB obtained from the EC and it will also be the first time that the bank will introduce risk-capital loans in the Kingdom.

"It will enable the IDB to participate directly in high-risk project," he said.

Outlining the background of the IDB, Wahbah said that the IDB was set up in 1965 under special legislation which was amended with the objective of encouraging, activating developing and expanding the industrial sector in the Kingdom, encouraging small-scale industries and handicraft projects and assisting the financial market and the stock exchange, Wahbah said. It also owns equity shares in industrial and tourism projects in the Kingdom.

Another objective of the IDB is encouraging indigenous ownership of industrial and tourism projects in the Kingdom. The bank also issues guarantees and counter-guarantees and offers administrative and technical advice to industrial projects whenever needed.

"We also undertake technical and feasibility studies," Wahbah said. "In cases where the results of the studies are positive, we might also undertake the financing of the project," he added. Usually, the share of IDB assistance to projects is around 50 per cent of the total cost involved.

The bank has a capital of JD 6 million and has access to foreign loans from organisations such as the EIB, the West German KfW [Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau—Credit Institute for Reconstruction] and the Arab funds such as the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Development in addition to facilities with the Central Bank of Jordan. It also accepts deposits.

In line with the statute of the bank, the IDB maintains a specialised department of experts whom it assigns to scrutinise the feasibility and merits of projects before granting loans. "We make sure that the project is well-studied and prepared and properly executed and that it is capable of marketing a specified agreed-upon quantity of its products as well as of repaying the loan," he said.

Terms and conditions, including interest rates and maturity period, are decided on a case-by-case basis, he said.

Recalling the abolition of import restrictions on a number of products in August this year, Wahbah said the bank believes that "there is now quite a bit of responsibility on the shoulder of the investor... he has to pull in more efforts at the conceiving stage of the project and has to consider each and every aspect of the project."

On our part, we assist the investor in this respect so that the risk is minimised... and ensure that the project is profitable and feasible in every aspect and be in line with the national objectives which have been clearly spelt out in the recent measures on foreign exchange....," he added.

At this stage, special attention is given to projects involving import substitutes and locally available raw material, Wahbah said.

The bank approved a total of 88 loan applications collectively worth JD 9.3 million since the beginning of the year until November, Wahbah said. This compares with 58 applications amounting to JD 7.73 million in 1987.

'Arafat Urges Palestinians To Search for Winkler
NC0712182088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The Swiss ambassador in Lebanon has appealed to all sincere Lebanese to help secure the release of Swiss national Peter Winkler, who was kidnapped in Sidon approximately 2 months ago. He said that his information indicates that Winkler was abducted because of his Swiss nationality and noted that the kidnappers have not yet achieved their aims.

Meanwhile, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat today officially instructed his cadres in Lebanon to follow up on the issue of Winkler, the Swiss representative of the International Red Cross. 'Arafat asked that maximum efforts be exerted to ensure Winkler's release and allocated a huge sum of money for this purpose now that Switzerland has agreed to shift the UNGA session to Geneva.

A pro-'Arafat Palestinian source said that 'Arafat thus aims to distance the character of terrorism from the Palestinians so that he may be able to rally as much foreign support as possible for the recent Algiers Conference resolutions and to embarrass the Americans and the Israelis, who rejected these resolutions and refused to grant him an entry visa to the United States on the pretext that he is a terrorist.

Red Cross Recalls Swiss Employees From South
NC0712140288 Paris AFP in English 1346 GMT
7 Dec 88

[Text] Beirut, Dec 7 (AFP)—The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced Wednesday it had recalled to Beirut all of its Swiss officials based in Moslem-controlled southern Lebanon following the kidnapping there three weeks ago of Swiss delegate Peter Winkler.

On November 23, the ICRC had announced a "freeze" on its activities in Sidon, from where Mr Winkler was abducted by three armed men, and the recall to Beirut of six of its officials based there.

Three more of its officials, based in the southern Lebanese city of Tyre, returned to Beirut earlier this week, the ICRC said.

The recall of its officials should not be considered as a total freeze on its activities in the south of the country, but as a "general winding down" of activity in the region due to Mr Winkler's kidnapping, the ICRC said.

The ICRC said it had not ruled out a full withdrawal from Lebanon, but no decision had so far been taken.

Mr Winkler, 32, said in a handwritten letter delivered to a Western news agency here last Friday that he had been abducted because of his Swiss nationality, rather than his affiliation with the Red Cross.

The Swiss ambassador here, Dino Sciolti, on Tuesday advised the 170 Swiss nationals in Lebanon to leave to country. But he added that he could not offer similar counsel to an additional 30 Swiss nationals employed by the ICRC, given the organization's "neutrality and independence."

The kidnapping, for which no group has claimed responsibility, came as Swiss authorities were preparing to try 'Ali Muhammad 'Hariri, a 24-year-old Lebanese charged in connection with the hijacking of an Air Afrique jet to Geneva in July 1987 during which a French passenger was shot dead.

VOL on 'Secret' Murphy Talks With Khaddam
NC0812071388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] LE NOUVEAU REVEIL newspaper today cites its correspondent in Washington as saying that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus last Monday [5 December] to discuss the issue of the presidential election and the question of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

The paper adds that they also discussed the list of presidential nominees which Patriarch Sfayr earlier presented to the Syrians through the United States. The U.S. State Department has kept this visit a complete secret. It only announced Mr Murphy's presence in Pakistan and Kuwait, where he joined the U.S. official delegation led by Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, the paper said.

Syria Said To Reject Presidential Candidate List
NC0812095488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] 'Aziz Ra'd, our Washington correspondent, cites information from informed sources, based on an evaluation carried out by U.S. Ambassador to Syria Djerejian, indicating that the Syrian response to the list of presidential candidates was negative.

5 Soldiers Detained at Syrian Checkpoint
NC0712155888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] According to a news report we received a short while ago, a Syrian checkpoint manning the Al-Madfun Bridge crossing point stopped a Lebanese Army truck that was heading for 'Akkar. The Syrians asked five soldiers on a manelist to get off the truck. The five soldiers are Salim Shallitah, Nabil al-'Ali, Mahmud Husayn, Ibrahim al-Hakim, and 'Abd al-Qadir Dirbas.

'Official Source' on Crossing Point Closure
NC0712134688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The Museum-Al-Barbir crossing point remains closed to supply and fuel convoys destined for West Beirut. General 'Awn has threatened to take further measures if his conditions are not met. Meanwhile, an official source in West Beirut has made a statement in response to an official in the eastern area. The source said: We have heard an official source close to the B'abda generals denouncing the current protest about food supplies being prevented from reaching West Beirut.

This source claims that foodstuffs are available in that area and that there is no question of starving the people. This means only one thing: They are determined to continue with their partitionist steps by keeping the crossing closed and to persist in starving all the poor people in both sectors of the capital and country.

We will not permit this, whatever the cost. We shall borrow food, seek the assistance of the brother and friend, and import what we need from the remotest parts of the world. Their lies will not prevent us from doing so.

As for the grand general who once said that tampering with matters concerning the people's livelihood is a war crime, he has incriminated himself by not hesitating to prevent food from reaching the children and the needy.

In another development, it is worth noting that, according to eyewitnesses, Army personnel manning the museum crossing point have searched the few cars that have been allowed to cross to the western area to make sure that the passengers were not transporting foodstuffs from the eastern area.

Birri, Junblatt Compete Over Commodities
NC0712201188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Some new developments have begun to reveal the facts surrounding the created crisis, which has forced the authorities concerned to close the museum crossing point. Facts have also been revealed about the Syrian allies' exploitation of the issue to justify laying hands on citizens' lives in the occupied areas by dividing the Lebanese livelihood. As the Lebanese Central Bank decided to issue letters of credit to import flour and gas for West Beirut, competition began between Junblatt and Birri, who lead the campaign against the Central Bank, to exploit this in each one's own favor. It was learned today that Junblatt has offered the port of Al-Jiyah, which is under his party's control, to import these commodities while Birri suggested the port of Al-Awza'i.

However, former Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss as well as leaders in West Beirut, including the Islamic Grouping, voiced reservations over importing through illegal ports,

preferring to study other means. Meanwhile, reports indicate that the Syrians offered to procure quantities of flour and gas. These facts are enough evidence to reveal malicious intentions. [passage omitted]

In another development, the Central Council of the Central Bank decided in its meeting at noon today to issue a letter of credit for \$1,647,360 to purchase 6,000 tons of flour for West Beirut and decided in principle to open a letter of credit to import domestic gas, on the condition that the gas quantity be determined and the letter of credit be opened in the next 2 days. [passage omitted] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri today continued his partitionist campaign against the Central Bank and reached the point of unveiling his intention to lay his hands on the bank.

He said that from now on he will not allow a single piaster in the Central Bank to be allocated to any area without the approval of what he termed the government and the government palace, disregarding any other alleged decisions, as he put it.

Group Claims Attack on Syrian Tripoli Post
NC0712063288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced that at 2200 yesterday it carried out an attack against the headquarters of Colonel 'Ali Hawr, of the Syrian special units, on the Al-Dinniyah road in the Al-Qubah area. The attack inflicted a number of casualties and led to tension among the Syrian forces.

Group Claims Anti-Syrian Attack in West Beirut
NC0812114588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0745 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The Beirut Martyrs Battalion has announced that one of its groups fired a rocket at the home of a Syrian occupation intelligence officer on Madame Curie Street in the Quraytim area this morning, injuring several people.

Israel Reportedly Sets Up Commando Unit
NC0712132188 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] National resistance men detonated a land mine as a militia patrol was passing on the Al-Jarmaq Road today, destroying a vehicle and injuring its occupants.

Meanwhile, the pro-occupation militia raided the town of Dayr Siryan yesterday, arresting nine residents, including an infant baby girl, and taking them to the Al-Khiyam detention camp. In another development, the occupation forces stormed the town of Kafr Shuba and detained three people.

Meanwhile, the British JANE'S WEEKLY, which specializes in military affairs, says in its latest edition that the occupation Army's northern area command has established a commando unit which will be deployed behind Syrian military lines in the Al-Biqa' plain. The purpose of this, it adds, is to abort the national resistance operations. The new unit comprises members of the Golani Brigade's reconnaissance unit and pro-occupation militiamen in the South, the magazines reports.

Israel Said To Seek Successor for Lahd
*NC0812121388 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 8 Dec 88*

[Text] A month has passed since the Lebanese resistance front passed the people's sentence on Antoine Lahd. There is no precise information on his health, as conflicting reports issue from Rambam Hospital where he is kept. Meanwhile, security sources in the occupied border strip have disclosed that the Israeli military command is already searching for a successor to head the border militia.

According to these sources, the Israeli command insists that Lahd's post go to an officer in the Lebanese Army so as to provide a semblance of official status for the militia.

The sources say that the only qualified officer acceptable to Israel is Captain Sharbil Barakat. Barakat, however, declined the Israeli offer, and the militia remains without a commander to this day. It should be mentioned that Barakat was Lahd's deputy some 8 months ago. He was then relieved of his post and replaced by Captain 'Aql Hashim.

Hizballah, Amal Trade Charges, Show Force
*NC0812085788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0745 GMT 8 Dec 88*

[Text] Hizballah and the Amal Movement yesterday accused each other of stirring up the situation in the Sidon area and in Hayy al-Sabil, Harat Hurayk, and Bi'r Hasan, where acts of mutual kidnapping and interception took place between the two sides. There were also shows of armed force by the two parties.

Amal To Operate New Radio Station in South
*NC0812120688 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
5 Dec 88 p 10*

[Text] The Amal Movement intends to build a radio station in the South. It will cover the Jabal 'Amil area initially. The station, which will be set up in the town of Zifta, will operate on medium-wave frequencies. The name of the station has not yet been decided, although it is likely to be "The Voice of the Deprived." Preparations are under way to start transmission soon.

PSP, Arab Democratic Party Tensions Rise
*NC0712160188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Dec 88*

[Text] The Al-RA'Y AL-'AMM news agency reports that a state of tension prevails in the 'Akkar area [in the north] between the Arab Democratic Party and PSP personnel after a PSP member from the Hamdan family was killed by Muhammad As'ad of the Arab Democratic Party when the former refused to pay his share of the protection money imposed by the Arab Democratic Party on the farmers in the area.

Reportage on Visit of CSSR Defense Minister

Received by Talas

JN0512202488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1915 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpt] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense, this afternoon received at his office Eng Lieutenant General Milan Vaclavik, CSSR national defense minister, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Gen Hikmat al-Shihabi, Army chief of staff, Gen Hasan Turkumani, deputy Army chief of staff, and the CSSR ambassador and military attache in Damascus.

Talks centered on friendly relations between the two countries and armies and means of promoting these relations.

The visiting delegation arrived in Damascus International Airport this morning where they were received by Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense, Gen Hasan Turkumani, deputy Army chief of staff, a number of high ranking officers in the General Command, the CSSR ambassador, military attache, and a number of the staff at the CSSR Embassy in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Praises Cooperation

JN0612183988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus—Eng Lieutenant General Milan Vaclavik, CSSR national defense minister, stressed his country's firm support for Syria's just struggle under President Hafiz al-Asad to liberate the occupied Arab territories and support all nations for the sake of their freedom and national independence.

Comrade Vaclavik and his delegation were received today by Comrade 'Izz al-Din Nasir, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and chairman of the Syrian Arab-CSSR Friendship Society.

During the meeting, the CSSR defense minister praised the constructive cooperation between the Syrian and CSSR peoples in all areas as well as the prominent role of the two friendship societies in the two friendly countries in promoting cooperative relations between the two countries.

He also praised the great achievements under comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the Republic, in all areas.

Talks With Military Leaders

JN0612195288 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received comrade Eng Lieutenant General Milan Vaclavik, national defense minister in the CSSR, and his delegation at 1900 today.

General Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; and the CSSR ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Vaclavik handed a written message to the prime minister from the CSSR prime minister and also conveyed the CSSR prime minister's heartfelt greetings and wishes. During the meeting, the talks centered on the close cooperation relations between the two friendly countries and how to promote them.

A round of talks was held between Vaclavik and his delegation on the one hand and General Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, on the other. The talks were attended by General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; the two deputies of the chief of staff; and senior officers from the General Command.

The talks dealt with ways to promote relations, friendship, and cooperation between the two friendly countries' armies.

Meets With Al-Ahmar, Khaddam

JN0712191088 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th party, today received Eng Lieutenant General Milan Vaclavik, CSSR national defense minister, and the accompanying delegation. The CSSR ambassador and military attache attended.

The meeting dealt with cooperative ties between the Ba'th Party and the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ] and between the two friendly countries and means to bolster ties in all fields. The two sides expressed satisfaction for the development of relations between the two countries. The meeting also dealt with the most important developments in the Arab region and the world.

During the meeting, Comrade Milan praised the great developments and achievements accomplished in Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He also expressed his country's appreciation for the firm anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist line pursued by Syria and its principal role in achieving a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace in the region.

He also renewed his country's support for Syria's and the Arab struggle to regain the occupied Arab territories and restore the Palestinian Arab people's usurped rights, particularly their right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state on their soil.

At 1800 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Eng Lieutenant General Milan Vaclavik and the accompanying delegation. Alois Reznik, CSSR ambassador in Damascus attended. The meeting revolved around international issues, the situation in the region, and bilateral relations.

The visiting minister and the accompanying delegation this morning visited one of our Air Force bases. He was accompanied by the major general commander of the Air Force and Air Defense. He was received by the base commander, a number of its officers, and a number of senior Air Force and Air Defense officers.

The delegation then visited the old city of Palmyra and was received at Palmyra airport by the major general commander of the Middle Region and a number of its officers. After the visiting minister reviewed the honor guard, the delegation toured the city of Palmyra and its ruins, which show the greatness of this nation's history and its glory. Following the visit, the delegation returned to Damascus.

AL-BA'TH Calls for Strong Arab Front

*PM0712153288 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
1 Dec 88 pp 1, 11*

[Dr Turki Saqr editorial: "Toward Close-Knit Arab Front"]

[Excerpts] The questions which emerge whenever the Arab-Israeli conflict is discussed include a very important one, namely: Is it possible to separate the United States from Israel?

We would not be exaggerating if we said that many people thought it impossible to separate the United States from Israel. Some have gone still further, to the extent of hoping that the United States would join Arab ranks against Israel. Realists have talked about Washington's neutrality in the ongoing conflict in the region.

But historical experience and evidence since the eruption of the Arab-Zionist conflict and active U.S. intervention in the region have revealed to us that we cannot differentiate between the United States and Israel. [passage omitted]

To avoid being accused of hasty judgments, let us look at the nature of the relationship between the United States and Israel, which in fact reflects the Zionist organizations' position and their strong control over U.S. decisionmaking, especially with regard to U.S. policy on the

Middle East. In fact it can be said that there is no U.S. policy in the region but, rather, an Israeli policy implemented by the United States. [passage omitted]

The United States does not only support Israel in the United Nations and political forums. It supports it both militarily and materially as well. Successive administrations have pledged themselves to Israel's military supremacy over the Arab states—one of the factors contributing to the continuation of tension, threats, and aggression against Arab territory.

We probably still remember what the United States did during the October 1973 war, namely, its rescue of the Zionist military institution from total collapse by setting up an airlift—the biggest ever in the history of war.

The strange thing is that the United States is always talking about its support for the principles of the peoples' freedom, the right to self-determination, human rights, and the non-annexation of others' territory by force, while continuing to do exactly the opposite, especially with regard to the Palestinian problem and the Palestinian Arab people.

Indeed it seems difficult to persuade the United States to be consistent with the principles it talks about throughout the world but ignores in the Middle East.

It is wrong to believe that the U.S. or the Israeli rulers can be persuaded by words as long as Israel is militarily superior and able to expand and commit aggression in implementing its so-called secure borders theory, advancing further and further inside Arab territory on the pretext of defending these borders. It will never heed any words, even if they embody concessions and capitulation.

Basically, the negotiation of a political settlement or a peace settlement that takes account of the minimum Arab objectives—namely, withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's alienable rights—is not possible, or, rather, impossible; that is, unless a close-knit and strong front is established around Israel in order to confront it, to change the situation on the ground, and to deprive any Israeli military adventure of guarantees and ensure woe-ful consequences for those undertaking it.

So there is no hope for those who have excluded effective options and methods from their considerations and are now brandishing the banners of flexibility everywhere, making a series of concessions to which the arrogant enemy has responded with intransigence, extremism, and rejection, not to mention demands of further concessions in a game whereby the advocates of flexibility could be left with nothing to forfeit.

Thus, the attempts to move closer to the Israeli position, full of arrogance coupled with blind U.S. support, are absolutely futile and divorced from an attitude of world responsibility and the demands of peace.

It is necessary to abandon weakness and correct the disequilibrium in the balance of power. The Arabs are capable of forming a front to eliminate that imbalance, which benefits the enemy. In all fields they have the resources to establish parity with Israel. Besides, they have in their hands U.S. interests through which they can exert effective pressure on the United States.

More importantly, the Arabs realize that a just peace can only be achieved when they use their sources of strength correctly.

Syria has always urged the mobilization of unified Arab action behind pan-Arab objectives and demands, and events have proved the credibility of such an approach. Let us not deceive ourselves into simply waiting, in a weak and fragmented state. Nothing will be achieved on the ground in the absence of a serious Arab action and effective Arab solidarity.

We must not forget that when we are strong our word will be heard and we will be able to regain our rights through negotiations. But as long as we are weak negotiations will sacrifice inalienable rights and will produce nothing but scorn and contempt. The world respects only those who adhere to their rights and defend them to the end.

Khaddam Meets News Agency Conference Delegates
JN0412151688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1415 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus—At 0900 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received participants in the Arab news agency federation's 17th conference currently being held in Damascus. Information Minister Muhammad Salman attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the Arab media role in the pan-Arab battle against imperialism and Zionism.

The Arab news agency federation's 17th conference concluded today. It adopted a number of decisions and recommendations designed to enhance the Arab news agencies' role, consolidate cooperation among them, and unify their efforts and stands at international conferences held on the news agency level. The federation appreciated the activation of Arab-European dialogue on the news agency level and the activation of cooperation with Asian and Latin American news agencies in order to further spread Arab news reports.

The federation also valued all efforts exerted by the colleague world press reporters who cover the Palestinian uprising. It respectfully appreciated the difficulties they face and the dangers posed to them.

Afghanistan

Pakistan, Mujahidin Reject Gorbachev Proposal

BK0812101488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0954 GMT
8 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 8 (AFP)—The Pakistani Government and the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance both reacted negatively Thursday to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's call for a United Nations-monitored ceasefire in Afghanistan.

The Jamiyat-e Eslami rebel group rejected the proposed truce, saying the mujahidin would fight until all Soviet troops were out of Afghanistan, while Pakistan's ambassador to the U.N., S. Shahnawaz, called the plan "unrealistic."

Mr Gorbachev, making his maiden speech to the U.N. General Assembly Wednesday, proposed a ceasefire effective January 1 and overseen by U.N. peace-keeping forces, together with a halt to arms supplies to both sides.

He also suggested that U.N. peacekeeping forces be sent to Kabul and other strategic centers to help establish a broad-based government in Afghanistan, and called for an international conference on demilitarizing the country.

"There is no demarcated line of battle where the ceasefire could be enforced," Mr Shahnawaz said in New York in an interview with the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP). He said Mr Gorbachev's speech was statesman-like, concentrating on "substance rather than on form," but his proposals were "unexceptionable and unrealistic in relations to the realities on the ground."

Mr Shahnawaz said a U.N. peace-keeping force could only be invited to Afghanistan by a properly constituted authority such as a broad-based government, "the establishment of which must take precedence."

He said the idea of an international conference had already been aired during Mr Gorbachev's visit to India last month and was aimed "at giving legitimacy to the Kabul regime."

The Pakistan Foreign Office had still to respond to the Soviet leader's proposals.

The Jamiyat-e Eslami, part of the seven-group Afghan resistance alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, rejected the ceasefire offer, saying the mujahidin would fight until the last Soviet soldier had left Afghanistan.

"The Soviets must withdraw without setting prior conditions and leave the Afghan people to decide their future destiny," Jamiyat-e Eslami spokesman Engineer Rahim said.

Mr Gorbachev, by proposing a truce, wants to keep the Soviet forces in Afghanistan and "if they are there the chances of a broad-based government would be marred," Mr Rahim said.

He added that the Soviet leader, in proposing an international peace conference, was acknowledging flaws in the Geneva accords, signed in April, under which Moscow has been pulling out its troops from Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union is due to finish withdrawing its estimated 110,000 troops from Afghanistan by February 15. Half of the force was pulled out by September 15, but Moscow suspended the withdrawal last month because its forces were coming under fire from the mujahidin.

The Soviet Union had its first direct talks with the mujahidin in Saudi Arabia over the weekend and a next round was expected in Islamabad next week.

The talks at the Saudi resort of Al-Ta'if were "80 percent philosophical explanation of each side's position while only 20 percent time was devoted to the real topics," a participant told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on his return here.

Newspapers here quoted Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, head of the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami rebel group, as saying that the talks had paved the way for an Islamic government in Kabul and that the Soviets would pull out before February 15.

The mujahidin reportedly assured the Soviet delegation, led by Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov, that they would not hinder the pullout.

Hikmatyar Praises Results of Talks With Soviets

BK0812073488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0652 GMT
8 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 7 (AFP)—Afghan rebel leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar has said that just-ended talks between the Soviet Union and Afghan mujahidin has paved the way for an Islamic government in Kabul, newspapers here reported.

Mr. Hikmatyar, who heads the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami group of rebels, told newsmen in Peshawar at the end of the three-day talks Tuesday in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, that the Soviets would wind up their military presence before the February 15 deadline.

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov led the Soviet delegation at the first direct dialogue with the rebels, headed by Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of the the seven-party resistance alliance.

The mujahidin reportedly assured the Soviets that they would not hinder the pullout.

Mr. Vorontsov has said that the talks, which will resume shortly in Pakistan, "will contribute towards the restoration of peace in Afghanistan" and ease the creation of a broad-based government.

Resistance sources here said routine high altitude Soviet bombings of rebel positions around the southern city of Qandahar have stopped since the weekend talks.

Mr. Hikmatyar, emphasising that the talks would pave the way for "an Islamic and non-aligned government," again rejected the idea of a broad-based coalition.

Special Guards Hold Exercise With New Weapons
LD0712210488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Military exercises involving the use of new weapons with which the Special Guards have been supplied for more effective power, the defense of our independence and territorial integrity, and the prevention of outside interference, were carried out this afternoon.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that the exercise was inspected by Major General Muhammad Afzalludin, commander of the Special Guards, and the leadership of the Ministry of State Security. At the end of exercise Special Guards members who displayed merit during the exercise were presented with gifts and letters of merit by the commander of the Special Guards.

Violence in Several Provinces Detailed
LD0812100188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 7, BAKHTAR—Eighty six extremists were killed and fifty six others seriously wounded as a result of the mopping up operations carried out on Tuesday in Sorkh Rud District of Nangarhar Province, reports our military correspondent from Jalalabad city, centre of Nangarhar Province, bordering Pakistan.

During the said operations three sets of surface-to-surface rocket launchers, four mortars, two recoilless cannons and three arms and munitions depots were destroyed and a large amount of various kinds of weapons fell at the hands of the Armed Forces as well.

According to another report from Qandahar Province a number of extremist elements were crushed three days ago in Sarpoza and Kotal-e Baba areas of the said province. A machine gun, a mortar and several kinds of weapons were demolished as well in the operations.

The Armed Forces also launched mopping up operations in Shindand District of Herat Province as a result of which a surface-to-surface rocket was seized.

Based on other report, as a result of the operations of the Armed Forces, tens of extremists were killed or injured in the related areas of Zarmal and Seyyed Karam Districts, Paktia Province.

Likewise, during the said operations two cannons and five vehicles carrying arms and ammunition of the extremists were also destroyed.

Our military correspondent reports from Paktia Province that, on Tuesday the extremists fired once again heavy rockets on the residential areas of Gardeyz city, centre of Paktia Province, as a result of which three civilians were wounded and a number of the residential houses damaged as well.

Mujahidin Reportedly Down Jet Near Gardeyz
BK0712114188 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have shot down a jet aircraft near Gardeyz. They are also reported to have killed 7 Kabul regime troops and wounded 12 others in Baghlan area. According to another report, the mujahidin in an operation in 'Ali Sheyr area of Paktia Province killed five Kabul troops and destroyed three military vehicles.

Protest Notes 141, 142 Submitted to UN Mission
LD0812093588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0454 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 7, BAKHTAR—The 141st and the 142nd notices of the Republic of Afghanistan on the eighteen cases of Geneva Accords violations by Pakistan and the USA was submitted here today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP), reports a representative of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The notices states clearly that Pakistan and the USA help continuation of war and fratricide in Afghanistan by sending modern weapons to the war-mongering extremists and sending them into the territory of Afghanistan.

The notices also give all-sided information on the nature of subversive actions of the extremists, date and place of the violations and the losses caused by them as well. The notices ask the mission to investigate the violations on the basis of the seventh item of the fourth document of the Geneva accords and inform the authorities of Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general of its results as soon as possible.

Kabul Airport Construction Nears Completion
LD0812100588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0421 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 7, BAKHTAR—Extensive construction work of Kabul International Airport which is being carried out by Afghan construction unit has been completed over eighty per cent with the cost of thirty eight million afghanis, said a representative of the unit in an interview with a BAKHTAR reporter.

It is envisaged that the project will be completed by the end of the current Afghan year (ending March 20, 1989), and with completion of the construction work, Kabul International Airport will be ready for more and better flights, the representative added.

Sharq Chairs Council of Ministers Session 6 Dec
LD0612225488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a session today which was chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq. After all-round consideration of a report

from the commission in charge, the session approved the preliminary figures for investment in government socio-economic programs for 1989.

The Council of Ministers session resolved that the Ministry of Internal Affairs shall install 1000 taxi meters imported by the Commerce Ministry in Kabul city taxis as an experiment and in order to provide facilities for Kabul residents.

The Council of Ministers also considered Kabul municipality's proposal concerning the acquisition of land for building apartment blocks, the distribution of land to landlords whose properties were confiscated, and the sale of commercial sites. Appropriate instructions were issued.

At today's session the amendment to Article 12 of the law of charges for official documents and government tariffs on government administrative documents in courts of the Republic of Afghanistan was considered and approved.

Following deliberations, appropriate decisions were made on other issues on the agenda.

Bangladesh

PRC Commission Meeting Ends; Documents Signed
BK0712132088 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The fourth session of Bangladesh-China joint commission ended in Dhaka today. The two sides, during the 4-day session, reviewed the progress achieved in trade, economic and technical assistance, economic cooperation for mutual benefit, scientific and technical cooperation, as well as cooperation in shipping between the two countries since the third session of the commission held last year.

A protocol regarding modernization and expansion of a company and a letter of exchange providing Chinese assistance of 382 million taka to meet part of a local cost financing of the Rupganj (?North) Water Conservancy Project were also signed.

The memorandum was signed by the leader of the Chinese delegation and vice minister for foreign economic relations and trade, Lu Xuejian, and the leader of the Bangladesh delegation—the External Resources Division Secretary Enam Ahmad Chaudhury—on behalf of their respective governments.

Philippine Official Arrives in Dhaka 4 Dec
HK0612021788 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Philippine Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs General Manuel Yan arrived in Dhaka yesterday [5 December] for a 4-day visit, during which he will meet Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad. Gen Yan flew in from Islamabad and was met at the airport by Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mohammad (Moshan).

Officials said Gen Yan is the first senior official from the Philippines to visit Dhaka for a long time, adding that he would deliver a message from President Aquino to President Ershad during his visit. Gen Yan and Mr (Moshan) are to hold formal talks today on bilateral cooperation between Dhaka and Manila.

U.S. Ship Carrying Waste Under 'Strict Watch'
BK0712161688 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The Bangladesh Government has warned all concerned to keep a strict watch against dumping of toxic waste in its territorial waters by a U.S. ship.

Official sources in Dhaka say that the ship sailing from Philadelphia with the dangerous industrial waste is trying desperately to unload it in the waters of other countries.

Import of industrial waste from any developed country has been banned in Bangladesh.

India

Maldives President Begins Official Visit 7 Dec
BK0712131588 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The president of the Maldives, Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao. President Gayoom, who is on a 2-day working visit, is accompanied by his foreign minister, Mr Fathulla Jameel.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Gayoom said he will discuss matters of bilateral interest with Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He dismissed as premature the question of having a security arrangement with India in the light of the recent coup attempt in the Maldives.

Replying to a question as to how long Indian troops will be in the Maldives, President Gayoom said it is too early to say anything. The prime minister will call on the visiting dignitary this evening.

Comments on Visit, Departs

BK0812125488 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] President Gayoom of the Maldives left for home this evening at the end of his 2-day visit to India. He was seen off at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh; and other senior officials.

Mr Gayoom told newsmen that he is fully satisfied with his talks with Mr Gandhi. Asked about possible security arrangements under the SAARC group, Mr Gayoom said it is for all the SAARC countries to discuss and decide. He expressed his gratefulness to the prime minister and the people of India for hospitality extended to him.

Earlier, in the day Mr Gayoom called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House]. Mr Venkataraman hosted a lunch in honor of the visiting dignitary. The vice president, the prime minister, and the Lok Sabha speaker were present.

Gandhi on Forthcoming Visits to China, Pakistan
BK0712145288 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister has said the government is committed to bring electoral reforms and the cabinet has already cleared for the Law Ministry to bring a bill on the subject. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing the valedictory general body meeting of the Congress-I Party in Parliament today.

Regarding his forthcoming visit to China, the prime minister said resumption of exchanges at the highest level between the two countries will go a long way toward rebuilding bilateral relations and will be in the interest of peace and stability in Asia and the world.

The prime minister also referred to his visit to Islamabad in connection with the SAARC meeting later this month and said the restoration of democracy in Pakistan will go a long way to lessen the tension between our two countries.

More on Gandhi's Comments

BK0712160488 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister has said that his talks with Chinese leaders in Beijing later this month will be held keeping in mind the national sentiments and national dignity of both the countries. Addressing the valedictory meeting of the Congress-I Party in Parliament [CPP] today, Mr Gandhi hoped that China will reciprocate in the same spirit.

He said that agreements are important, but more important is the mutual exchange of views which will promote better relationships. He said resumption of exchanges at the highest level between the two countries will go a long way toward rebuilding bilateral relations.

Briefing newsmen, the CPP secretary, Mr P.N. Shukul, said the prime minister also spoke of his visit to Pakistan in connection with the SAARC summit later this month. He hailed the restoration of democracy in Pakistan and said this will go a long way to lessen tensions between the two countries. He hoped that his talks with Ms Bhutto will prove equally helpful to both.

Mr Gandhi stressed the need for a new understanding in the region so that the countries can coexist peacefully. He praised the defense forces for their successful operation in the Maldives.

On electoral reforms, Mr Rajiv Gandhi reiterated the government's commitment. He said the Cabinet has cleared the proposal and the Law Ministry is drafting a bill on the subject. The main features of the bill slated to be introduced in Parliament next week are reduction in the voting age to 18, and steps for stopping malpractices like rigging and booth capturing.

Mr Gandhi said that the reduction in the voting age will give the unrepresented youths an opportunity to vent their feelings. It will also allow them to be part of the polling process. He expressed total faith in the youth of the country.

UK's Thatcher Assails 'Terrorist Funding'
BK0812094788 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, says her government is determined to put an end to any activity in her country intended to promote or support terrorism either in Britain or in India. Mrs Thatcher announced her government's resolve to take additional powers to deal with the problem of fund raising by terrorists.

In an interview to a correspondent of an Indian daily in London, she said the home secretary will introduce new legislation in the current session of Parliament outlining stronger measures against terrorist funding. Declaring that violence will not be tolerated, she said her government will act firmly wherever there is evidence of activity which is against the law. The British prime minister said she is totally against any inflammatory statements and feels that they abuse Britain's hospitality.

Outlining the measures taken so far to contain the terrorist activities in Britain, Mrs Thatcher said her government is cooperating very closely with Indian authorities in this regard.

Science, Technology Agreement Signed With GDR
BK0712162088 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] India and the German Democratic Republic have signed an agreement on cooperation in science and technology. It identifies several new areas of collaboration during 1989-90 including biotechnology, material science, computer science, leather and textile technology, and opto-electronics for space application. The agreement also envisages exchange of visits by scientists, joint projects and workshops.

Oil Well Producing 2,000 Barrels in Cambay Basin
BK0612092488 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Oil has been struck at well (Nada)-1 in Cambay Basin in Gujarat. The minister of petroleum and natural gas, Mr Brahm Dutt, told the Lok Sabha in a statement today that initial tests indicate a production level of over 2,000 barrels of oil and 1.28 lakh cubic meters of gas per day.

The discovery opens up an additional 45 square kilometers for future exploration. The oil has been found to be very light in quality. The minister informed that the well is located 100 kilometers south of Baroda and 60 kilometers north of Broach. Further testing is in progress.

Iran

London Paper Says Musavi Under Surveillance
WA0812151588 London KEYHAN in Persian
1 Dec 88 p 2

[Text] A very serious rumor is circulating in Tehran that Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic, has been under surveillance at his residence after he was forced to resign. This news reached London last Monday [28 Nov 88] and was also published in the weekly, THE OBSERVER.

THE OBSERVER writes that after weeks of political infighting among top clerics of the Islamic Republic government and Musavi because of differences in views over economic and political matters and foreign policy, the 47-year-old Musavi was ultimately forced to resign after 7 years as prime minister. He was under strong pressure by the "practical clerics" headed by Hashemi-Rafsanjani who want government policy to conform to the needs [of the country] after the war.

Ayatollah Khomeyni accepted the resignation of Musavi. However, after several discussion sessions, he issued a statement addressed to him and expressed his personal gratitude for his services and appointed him as the head guardian of the families of war martyrs. It is being said in Tehran that 'Ali Akbar Velayati will replace Musavi as prime minister.

The resistance to Musavi was being organized on one side by his powerful rival Hashemi-Rafsanjani and, on the other, by Ayatollah Montazeri.

Tehran political circles did not announce the news of his resignation largely because Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the FRG minister of foreign affairs, was going on an official visit to Tehran and was meeting with the officials of the country including the prime minister.

The political programs of Hoseyn Musavi consisted of preventing the renewed influence of the West in Iran in the name of reconstruction, building a healthy economy for Iran by the government itself, nationalization of industry and commerce, and control of prices. Last week, following the resignation of Musavi, several religious supporters of Ayatollah Montazeri were executed in Tehran.

Khomeyni Meets Imam Reza Representatives
LD0812114688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] A large group of the officials and attendants of the Shrine of the Holy Imam Reza [Astan-e Qods-e Raza-va'i] in Mashhad accompanied by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Va'ez Tabassi, representative of the imam and custodian of the two holy mosques [of Imam Reza], met with Imam Khomeyni at his Jamaran residence this morning.

According to the Central News Unit report, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Tabassi thanked the imam of the ummah for his efforts and high-mindedness toward the servers of the holy shrine and requesting the imam of the ummah to take a trip to holy Mashhad.

He also presented a report to the imam on the state of the holy shrine. At the end of this meeting, Imam Khomeyni responded to the sentiments of those present.

Khamene'i Receives Peruvian Ambassador
LD0712132088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Republic of Peru's new ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran presented his credentials this morning to President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. The ambassador also presented warm greetings from Peruvian President Alan Garcia Perez and stressed Peru's interest in expanding relations and joint cooperation.

He hoped that a comprehensive and lasting peace, based on UN Security Council Resolution No 598, will be achieved in the Persian Gulf region. He later stressed that the responsible authorities of Peru believe that Iran has defended its honor and territory with praiseworthy courage and that it now needs a peaceful environment in which to demonstrate its powers and resources.

Khamene'i said he hopes for an improvement in Iranian-Peruvian relations. He then referred to his meeting with Peruvian President Alan Garcia Perez in Harare. He said: At that meeting I felt that despite long geographical distances, the two countries can establish close relations in cultural, political, and economic fields. I hope your efforts to expand these relations will bear fruit.

The president referred to the question of security in the Persian Gulf and said: The efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran have always been geared toward strengthening peace in the region. By accepting Security Council Resolution No 598 we proved this important point. Now we are making efforts to have this resolution implemented fully and in the shortest possible time.

Khamene'i added: The continued presence of foreign navies in the Persian Gulf is detrimental to this region. Unfortunately, the United States has announced that its Navy will stay on in the region. The president stressed: We are suspicious of the U.S. Government's decision. We believe it to be against the interests of lasting peace in the region.

In conclusion, Khamene'i stressed the need for expanding relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Peru in all areas of mutual interest.

Musavi Chairs Cabinet Debate on Budget

*LD0712232588 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT
7 Dec 88*

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA—The cabinet ministers started debate on the budget for the new calendar year (starting 21 March 1989), Wednesday.

The session headed by Premier Hoseyn Musavi approved 12 articles of the budget bill, stressing that the government's policy was to pay special attention towards reconstruction of war-ravaged areas and affairs of disabled combatants. Granting of more facilities for education and the agricultural sector was also emphasised.

Majles Approves 50 Billion Rials for Reconstruction

*LD0712233188 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT
7 Dec 88*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7, IRNA—The Majles Wednesday overwhelmingly voted for the allocation of rials 50 billion (dlrs 764 million) to start reconstruction projects in the current Iranian year (ending March 21 1989).

"Although since accepting the peace resolution we have lost four months for reconstruction but we hope that with this small amount we could get things started and take some steps to solve the people's problems," the government representative told deputies.

Although the bill to amend Article 22 of this year's budget was passed by a great majority, it was only in its first reading and it will have to be discussed in detail in committees and later in the full Majles.

Although little more than three months is left in the year, deputies increased by rials 10 billion the original rials 40 billion allocation.

Rials 10 billion has been set aside for direct payments to the people for war damages such as loss of property, rials 10 billion will be in foreign exchange to import needed equipment and machinery, and rials 30 billion will be spent directly by the government.

The total amount will come from domestic borrowing as Article 22 had allowed the government to borrow rials 160 billion. If necessary the government would also sell foreign exchange to the domestic market at over the official rate but lower than the black market.

Pointing out the enormity of the work at hand, the government representative said that 123 provinces, in addition to the five provinces bordering Iraq, suffered damages during the nearly eight year war.

Among large projects, rials 420 million will be spent on repairing the damaged installations of the yet incomplete nuclear power plant in Bushehr and also an unspecified sum would be used to repair oil refineries in six months if an oil ministry proposal is approved.

Also 588 schools in Kordestan, 177 in Bakhtaran (formerly Kermanshah), 51 in West Azarbayjan, and 25 in Ilam Province need to be rebuilt and 30 cities in the five border provinces also need drinking water networks.

Tehran Notes Shooting in Baku's Lenin Square

*NC0812115688 Tehran International Service in Turkish
1700 GMT 5 Dec 88*

[Text] Soviet military units opened fire on the demonstrators gathered in Lenin Square in Baku last night. Baku radio aired an announcement by the military governor of the city this morning to the effect that the troops opened fire on the demonstrators because they failed to comply with the warnings.

Baku radio did not elaborate on the number of the people who were killed or wounded. Nor did it disclose the number of the arrested individuals. However, the military governor of the city confirmed the rumors that several bodies were seen in Lenin Square.

Direct Telephone Contact With 140 Countries

*LD0712114988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Dec 88*

[Text] The Iranian Telecommunications Company announced that, through the expansion of technical facilities, direct telephone contact between Iran and 140 countries has been established. From now on, the compatriots can have direct telephone contact with 140 countries.

It must be remembered that, hitherto, there were only 29 countries which could be reached directly by telephone from Iran. The names of the countries which have now become directly accessible through Iranian telecommunication system will soon be announced by the company.

Commentary on Students' Role in Society

*NC0712114088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 FMT 7 Dec 88*

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary: "Students—the Dynamic Force of Society"]

[Excerpts] The date of 7 December recalls one of the most brilliant memories of student movements in Iran. Exactly 35 years ago, students staged massive demonstrations to express their opposition to (Nixon's) arrival in Tehran. The great march they held was fired upon by the shah's mercenaries.

The shah's tyrannical regime tried to train raw, easily swayed individuals into docile and submissive ones and to make students ignorant, isolated, and bereft of political acumen in order to attain its diabolical and heinous objectives. It sought to transform the university into a place for [words indistinct] who could easily be molded into individuals receptive to the destructive Pahlavi views.

However, with the Islamic revolution and subsequent freedom and independence, the students' persistent efforts of the past few decades got results. They not only destroyed the Pahlavi rulers' ideology but also inspired fresh hope, enthusiasm, and fervor in our thousands of educated, responsible Muslim people. [passage omitted]

During the checkered history of the revolution, the students have consistently utilized their potential and intelligence to pioneer self-sacrifice and heroism in all spheres, particularly in the imposed war, with revolutionary responsibility. With perspicacity and emotional growth and introspection, they proved to be a foil to internal and external plots, whether economic or cultural.

In view of the present sensitive situation, and the conditions created for the reconstruction of society, it is imperative that the problems of students—who will forge the future of society—be examined. Following the Islamic revolution, many of the students' problems and difficulties were eliminated, but some still continue for certain reasons. Students form a sensitive and aware stratum of society. They have a strong and straightforward understanding of problems and realities, and also endeavor to comprehend the ramifications of current affairs.

It is for this reason that most of the problems that imperialism has constantly created for the revolution should be reviewed and wholeheartedly acknowledged. It

would be unrealistic if all problems were attributed to extraneous elements and all responsibility laid at the door of intangible factors. It would be futile to justify or explain these factors. On the other hand, the political and social aspects of the revolution have always favored the provision of assistance to Muslim and devout students, who have always presented a united front and neutralized all Eastern and Western plots.

Therefore, what is important in providing a continuity of movement and constancy in the students' political activities is the resuscitation of a wholesome and pleasant atmosphere, conducive to the expression of constructive views and the display of greater goodwill. The stagnation of political and social activity among students and indifference on their part may be the result of a mindless approach which may later be transmitted by some ignorant persons to the universities.

The best way of extending healthy, independent political activity in universities is to create the necessary conditions and a free exchange of opinions, within legal limits, that will culminate in a healthy attitude and the birth of new thoughts. [passage omitted]

Along with student political activity, it is necessary that facilities be provided for welfare schemes and student unions. There should also be an increased number of admissions to universities; these have lagged behind. Even now, there are problems relating to dormitories and educational equipment, for example.

It is obvious that, in such conditions, intensive planning for raising the educational level of universities and a more serious approach to the aforementioned problems can create a more beneficial and valuable atmosphere among the students. Thus the level of their efficiency may be raised and the ability to continue the Islamic revolution and attain its ideals may be strengthened. In this way the true independence of tomorrow's society may be guaranteed.

Nepal

Restrictions on Imports Further Relaxed

BK0812063488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0606 GMT
8 Dec 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 7 (AFP)—Nepal has further relaxed restrictions on imports by adding another 19 items to its open general license scheme providing for lower import duties, a government official said.

The move takes the number of items subject to "import premiums" of five to 30 per cent to 51 including industrial raw materials, certain plastics and building materials such as cement and iron products.

Luxury items including synthetic textiles, woolen products and electronic goods are subject to premiums ranging from 175 per cent to 240 per cent. The sale of import permits for such items raises between 15.9 million dollars and 23.9 million dollars a year for the government, the official said.

"We have foreign exchange reserve of 7.5 billion rupees (298 million dollars) which is sufficient enough to meet more than six months of the country's imports," the official added.

Pakistan

UN Envoy Says Gorbachev's Offer 'Unrealistic'
BK0812040288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has underlined the need for a complete cease-fire in Afghanistan from 1 January so that a broad-based government can be established in that country. Addressing the UN General Assembly yesterday, he suggested that the areas controlled by the opposition Afghan groups should remain under their control during the cease-fire which should be monitored by the UN Peacekeeping Force.

The supply of arms to all warring factions should also be stopped from the date the cease-fire becomes effective. In his detailed address, the first by any Soviet leader since 1960, Gorbachev said these proposals will reinforce the unanimous resolution [on Afghanistan] adopted by the UN General Assembly on 3 November.

Pakistan's ambassador at the United Nations, S. Shahnawaz, has described as statesmanlike Gorbachev's UN address in which he referred to global problems and laid emphasis on concrete issues instead of procedures [as heard].

However, he said, Gorbachev's proposals on Afghanistan, which do not apparently seem to be objectionable, are actually unrealistic if viewed in the real perspective.

Referring to Gorbachev's proposal for a complete cease-fire in Afghanistan from 1 January under the supervision of the UN Peacekeeping Force, the Pakistani ambassador said there are no clearly marked battle areas where a cease-fire can be implemented.

About the UN Peacekeeping Force, Shahnawaz said only a legitimately established institution, like a broad-based government, can invite the UN force, and the formation of such a government should take precedence over other things.

Answering a question about the convening of an international conference on Afghanistan, the Pakistani envoy said this is not a new proposal, as a similar one was offered during Gorbachev's visit to New Delhi last month.

The purpose behind the call for such a conference is to legitimize the Kabul regime. The solution of the Afghanistan problem depends on the formation of a broad-based government and the mujahidin have already forwarded proposals in this regard.

Bhutto Meets With Soviet, Other Ambassadors
BK0712155588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has reaffirmed her desire to see an early departure of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, thereby restoring peace and stability in that country and enabling the large number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan to return to their homes. She conveyed this when Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan Viktor Yakunin called on her in Rawalpindi today.

The prime minister expressed the hope that a solution to the Afghanistan problem will pave the way for stabilizing relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. Views were also exchanged during the talks on international issues of mutual interest.

The Soviet ambassador conveyed felicitations and good wishes to Ms Benazir Bhutto on behalf of the Soviet leadership on assuming the position of the prime minister.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Qasim 'Umar al-Yaqut and Japanese Ambassador Shunji Kobayashi also had separate meetings with the prime minister.

The Kuwaiti envoy delivered a message to the prime minister from Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah extending greetings to her on assuming the office of the premier. They also had a brief review of bilateral ties during the occasion and expressed the hope that the brotherly relations between the two countries will further strengthen in the future.

The Japanese envoy invited Ms Benazir Bhutto to make an early visit to Japan. They also exchanged views on increasing Japanese investment and transfer of aid and technology in order to boost economic cooperation between the two countries. The prime minister assured that a conducive atmosphere will be created in Pakistan for foreign private investment.

She said that her democratically-elected government will strive to fully conform to the people's expectations. However, she added that unfortunately it is facing difficulties due to the economic situation it inherited from the former government.

Tokyo TV Interviews Prime Minister Bhutto
OW0712141888 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 1200 GMT 7 Dec 88

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the prime minister's residence in Rawalpindi by correspondent Hasegawa on 7 December; interview in English with Japanese subtitles; from the "News Today" program—recorded]

[Text] In Pakistan, the general election was held last month for the first time in 11 years. Ms Benazir Bhutto was inaugurated as the new prime minister on 2 December. This is the first time that a woman has become the

prime minister of an Islamic nation. Correspondent Hasegawa conducted an exclusive interview with Prime Minister Bhutto at the premier's official residence in Rawalpindi.

[Begin recording] [Hasegawa—in Japanese] For several days in succession, Prime Minister Bhutto has energetically engaged in meetings with the persons concerned in the Parliament as well as diplomats from various countries. She has been engaged in schedules virtually worked out to the minute. In her interview with NHK, she stated her expectations of Japan as follows:

[Hasegawa—in English] Would you tell us how you feel being a prime minister?

[Bhutto] Well, it is a great honor and it is also a very big challenge, because everyone is looking towards Pakistan now to see how it functions under the first woman elected in an Islamic country. I feel at the same time that the burdens are many; for instance, the economic situation is in a mess. However, I am hoping we can get help and assistance from the friends of democracy.

In this connection, I was mentioning the wheat shortage in Pakistan to his excellency, the ambassador. I hope Japan can help us in finding a solution. Also, I want to say how much we admire the tenacity of the people of Japan in developing the economy and I hope that Japanese business will look towards Pakistan to help us develop our economy.

[Hasegawa] You said that you are going to keep the strong relations with the United States and also, at the same time, improve relations with the Soviet [as heard] and China. In which direction are you going to lead this country?

[Bhutto] Well, I want to try to achieve a period of peace and create a region free from tension. Of course, circumstances have a great impact on events and on the end of the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. I think the path for better relations will be open with that country. The U.S. gives us much aid and we need the sustained help and assistance to strengthen our own economy.

It was my father who charted our good relations with China and I hope I shall be able to keep sustain this. I must tell you that my father was planning to visit Japan in the year that his government was overthrown. I hope that now I have the opportunity of visiting your great country.

[Hasegawa] We are expecting it very much. So far the....

[Bhutto, interrupting] I think we should stop because I must....

[Hasegawa, interrupting] Just one question. Do you expect any resistance from the conservatives in this country?

[Bhutto] Well, people get used to established ways, and when there is an effort to bring about change, I am sure there are going to be some apprehensions. For this reason we are trying to move cautiously and keep an almost impossible balance between continuity and change. This continuity is reassuring. At the same time, the message of the people is a message for change, so we have to strike the right balance to take our country forward. I hope I have your prayers and good wishes in doing that.

[Hasegawa—in Japanese] Prime Minister Bhutto has decided on the plans for taking measures to release political prisoners, and on revising the budget for the next fiscal year in order to increase the welfare budget for the poor people, who account for a large number of the people in this country. She has already taken a strong leadership role in building a new Pakistan. [end recording]

It was former President Bhutto, Ms Bhutto's father, who called the Japanese people economic animals and made the term very popular. Prime Minister Bhutto, his daughter, seems to understand the Japanese as economic animals, but with a little different nuance.

Japanese Envoy Extends Invitation to Bhutto
OW0812063988 Tokyo KYODO in English 2340 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 8 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Wednesday invited new Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to make an early visit to Japan.

The invitation was extended by Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan Shunji Kobayashi when he called on Bhutto to congratulate her on her assumption of the premiership.

Bhutto, 35, daughter of the late former Prime Minister Zulfikar Bhutto, was sworn in as the first woman premier in an Islamic country last Friday after her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) won the November 16 parliamentary election.

Bhutto and the Japanese ambassador also discussed bilateral economic relations and technological cooperation, officials said.

Interior Ministry Orders Passports for Exiles
BK0712160688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The Interior Ministry has directed all overseas Pakistani Embassies to issue passports to all exiled Pakistanis applying for passports. Concerned authorities in Pakistan have also been directed not to arrest those Pakistanis returning through legal means who had been sentenced under Martial Law Regulation No 31, because the present democratic government has remitted their sentences.

President Summons Joint House Session 14 Dec
BK0712113988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The president has summoned the joint session of parliament to meet in Islamabad next Wednesday [14 December] at 1100. The Senate has also been summoned to meet on Sunday at 1000.